

Soul-Saving **SERMONS**

By

JOHN HARRIS

Published By:

J. C. Choate Publications
Winona/Singapore/New Delhi/Cape Town

© Copyright 1995
J.C. Choate Publications

Third Edition, 1995, 10,000 copies

Order From:

J. C. Choate Publications

P.O. Box 72
Winona, MS 38967

Phone: (601) 283-1192
Fax: (601) 283-1191

Dedication

This book is lovingly dedicated to my beloved wife, Virginia, and to our only child and only daughter, Mary Helen, who have joined forces to encourage me in the ministry, as I preach unto men the unsearchable riches of Jesus Christ.

Introduction

The articles appearing in this book were first printed in various gospel papers. Because of the variety of subjects, and their need at the time, it was felt that they should be gathered and printed in book form. That is also why they continue to be used even up to this time.

Not only have these materials been published here in the States but they have also been reprinted and widely used in India.

I have known Bro. John Harris since the days he preached in my home town of Corinth, MS. He later preached in Milan, TN, and has lived and worked out of Huntsville, AL for the last several years. His present address is: 2715 Pine Tree Lane, Huntsville, AL 35810. Phone (205) 852-6319.

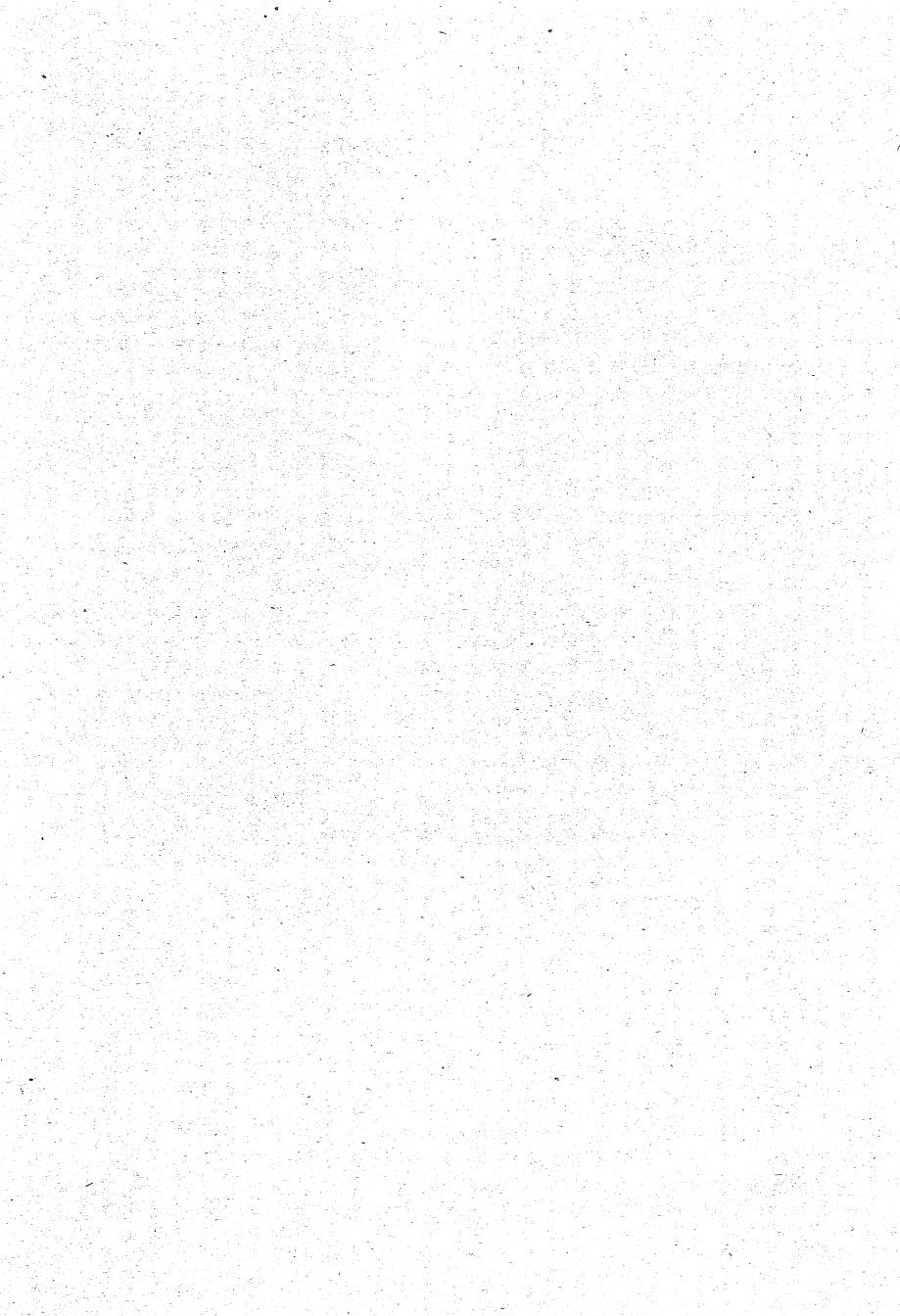
Bro. Harris is also the author of **Power Packed Sermon Outlines**, a book that has been in great demand. As a result we have had to reprint it at least twice and need to reprint it again.

I personally commend Bro. Harris and his **Soul-Saving Sermons** to you, with the prayer that God will continue to bless this gospel preacher and his work for the Lord. I also pray that his book will be a blessing to your and to all who may read it.

J. C. Choate
Winona, MS
August 1, 1995

CONTENTS

Title	Page	Title	Page
Don't Make a Mistake	7	God's Temple	55
Christian Growth	8	The Conversation Between Jesus and Nicodemus	56
Right Thinking	9	Christ Died for All	57
Is It True?	11	'What Love Can Do'	58
The Redeeming Blood	12	Enemies of the Cross	60
God Is a Respector of Persons	15	'It Is Written,' No. 1	62
We Are Debtors	16	'It Is Written,' No. 2	63
Has the Bible Failed You? ..	18	One Greater than Solomon ..	65
The World Needs Christ	19	The Methodist Discipline	67
There Is No Difference	21	The Simplicity of Christ	69
The Narrow Way	23	'And Preached unto Him Jesus'	70
A Stone for Bread	24	Concerning Salvation	72
The Baptist Manual and Baptism	26	Lying Prophets	74
The Rock of Offense	27	'Get Right with God'	76
We Have Been Falsely Accused	29	Check and Be Sure	77
Stumbling Blocks	30	Concerning the Sabbath Day	79
Sound Doctrine	32	Why I Love the Bible	81
A Charge To Keep	33	Fire Protection	82
Is Baptism Essential?	35	The Words of Eternal Life ..	83
'They Made Light of It'	37	I Was a Catholic	85
The Eyes of the Lord	38	Ye Are Complete in Christ ..	87
God-Sent Men	40	A Glorious Church	89
Christians Should Grow	41	Preaching that Pleases God ..	90
'Why Did My Saviour Come to Earth?'	43	False Teachers	92
'But to Us There Is but One' .	44	Colston-Johnson Debate	93
'Then Cometh the Devil'	45	The Place Where It Is Written	95
'That Same Jesus'	47	'As I Teach Everywhere in Every Church'	97
'And We Cannot Deny It'	48	For This Is Right	99
The Perfect Law	49	There Is No Other	100
Things We Are Right About	51	The Engrafted Word Which Is Able	101
The Wise Preacher	52	The Bible Does Not Say It ..	102
Are We Saved by Faith Only?	53	Warnings from God	104
The Rejected Christ	54	Our Record Is True	106



Don't Make a Mistake

Ever since God first spoke this universe into existence and placed man upon the earth man has been making mistakes. Many mistakes are serious and many are not serious. The first mistake that was ever made in the history of the world was made by a woman. Mother Eve. She obeyed the voice of Satan instead of the voice of God. (Gen. 3:6)

The second person to make a mistake was the first son of Adam and Eve. His name was Cain. In 1 John 3:12 we read about him: "Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother."

Lot's sons-in-law made a mistake when they refused to leave the city. (Gen. 19:14) Lot's wife disobeyed the commandment of the angel of the Lord. She looked back and became a pillar of salt.

Esau in a moment of weakness sold his birthright. (Gen. 25:33.)

Pharaoh and the Egyptians plunged into the Red Sea uninvited. There remained not so much as one of them.

Moses made a mistake, and it kept him out of the Canaan land. God told him to speak to the rock, but he smote it. When I am preaching about Moses and this mistake he made, I often wonder what will happen to the Methodist preacher who gets his verbs confused where baptism is concerned. God gave the command to be buried in baptism, but the Methodist preacher sprinkles for baptism. I am afraid for the Methodist preacher.

King Saul made a serious mistake when he did not utterly destroy the Amalekites, but spared old King Agag. Saul was condemned by Samuel. (1 Sam. 15:22, 23.)

Uzziah touched the ark (2 Sam. 6:7) and God smote him there for his error. And there he died by the ark of God.

Rehoboam forsook the counsel of the old men. (1 Kings 12:8.) The men of Bethshemesh looked into the ark of the Lord and sinned. (1 Sam. 6:19.) And God smote of the people fifty thousand and three score and ten men.

Uzziah made a mistake when he offered incense upon the altar of the Lord. (2 Chron. 26:21.) And Uzziah was a leper unto the day of his death.

One of the greatest mistakes ever made was by King Agrippa. (Acts 26:28.) He said unto Paul, "Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian." To be almost persuaded is to be almost saved. And to die almost saved is to die eternally lost, and to

die eternally lost is to die with no hope of ever seeing the face of God in peace. I do hope that this lesson will cause someone to correct his mistakes before he dies, that when he is called from his tabernacle of clay he will be permitted to dwell in the paradise of God forever.

Christian Growth

The apostle Peter said, "Grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." (2 Pet. 3:18.) The word grace means favor and Luke tells us that Jesus increased in wisdom and stature and favor with God and man. (Lk. 2:52.) Since we are followers of Christ and should imitate Him in our lives, we must grow in the same way.

To grow in wisdom means to grow mentally, to grow in stature means to grow physically, to grow in favor with God means to grow spiritually and to grow in favor with man means to grow socially. It is more important to win the confidence of our fellow man than many realize. As Christians we should study to know how to win friends and influence people. We should remember the admonition to grow in grace and knowledge. To acquire knowledge it is necessary to study. Can school children get their lessons without study? Certainly not. Neither can the Christian grow in knowledge without study of God's word. Paul instructed Timothy to study to show himself approved of God a workman that needed not to be ashamed. (2 Tim. 2:15.) In another Scripture we learn that Timothy knew the Scriptures from a child, nevertheless he was told to study. If Timothy needed to study, how much more do we need to observe the same command? The Christian should study to learn how to behave himself in God's house. Many have not learned this lesson.

It is my firm belief that this command to grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord has been neglected by the average church member. Let us consider the importance of growth in the Christian life.

We realize the importance of growth in the vegetable and animal kingdom. Farmers plant seed and they expect growth before they can reap a harvest. The farmer is always interested in the growth of his crops.

He wants his chickens and livestock to grow or he knows that something is wrong with them. In the family the growth of the baby is very important. Notice how the mother weighs the baby every week to see how fast he is growing. When the baby fails

to grow, mother becomes concerned. She knows something is wrong, because babies are supposed to grow. She takes him to the doctor to find out why he does not grow. Now this is just as important in the spiritual life of every man. When a man becomes a Christian he is a babe in Christ, but he is expected to grow. The Lord expects him to grow. Unfortunately some never grow very much. They are babes all their lifetime. "For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe." (Heb. 5:12, 13.) We do not expect a baby to live on milk only all his life. Neither should we expect a Christian to live on milk all his life. He should grow in the knowledge of the truth that he may be able to discern good from evil.

The essentials of physical growth are food, air and exercise. The baby needs pure milk every two to four hours. But this is not enough. A baby may be fed pure milk but if he is closed up in a dark and poorly ventilated room he will still fail to grow properly. Beside proper food and pure air he must also have exercise. Even a grown man can tie his arm to his body and not allow it to be exercised for a number of days and it will become weak and useless. Christians therefore should feed upon the pure word of God, they should live in good environment and have good associates and they should keep busy in the work of the Lord that they may be exercised that they may grow in the grace of the Lord.

Right Thinking

This is indeed an appropriate subject, because right thinking is necessary to the Christian life. Jesus said in Matthew 12:34, "For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh." Solomon said, "For as he thinketh within himself so is he." (Prov. 23:7.) A Christian can have foolish and sinful thoughts and sin. "The thought of foolishness is sin." (Prov. 24:9.) "Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thine heart." (Lev. 19:17.) "Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer." (1 John 3:15.)

If everyone's thinking is right, everyone is going to live right. We do not have any hope of heaven unless we live right.

The apostle Paul admonishes us to set our mind on proper things. "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatso-

ever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." (Phil. 4:8.)

Paul begins by saying we should think upon things that are true. In John 17:17 Jesus said, "Thy word is truth." Truth is the opposite of falsehood, a lie or deceit. Truth is fidelity, sincerity, and punctuality in keeping promises. Truth is opposed to hypocrisy, dissimulation or formality. "Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man the truth with his neighbor." (Eph. 4:25.) "Lie not one to another." (Col. 3:9). The Lord hates "a false witness that speaketh lies and he that soweth discord among brethren." (Prov. 6:16-19.)

Paul next speaks of things honorable. The word honorable means to be worthy of honor, noble, illustrious, of reputable association or use. Christians ought to live so as to cause this criticizing and perishing generation to look upon them as honorable persons. Paul said when one member be honored, all the members rejoice with it. (1 Cor., 12:26.)

Next Paul speaks of things that are just. A just person is one who is righteous before God. He is exact, accurate, honest, upright. "He hath showed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God." (Micah 6:8.)

Paul next mentions purity. Purity is chastity, self-control. Paul said, "Keep thyself pure." (1 Tim. 5:22.) "Be thou an example of the believers in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity." (1 Tim. 4:12.)

The next word is lovely. Christians ought to cultivate a lovely disposition. We would not speak of a man as being beautiful, but he can be beautiful morally. He can be good, noble and decent.

Paul speaks next of having a good report. The elders, said Paul, should be men of good report. (1 Tim. 3:7.) One of the greatest hindrances to the progress of the church today is deficient and unqualified elders. Men incapable of leadership cause the sheep of the good Shepherd to be scattered. "Woe be unto the pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! saith the Lord." (Jer. 23:1.) People are not willing to be led by unqualified and blind leaders. Sometimes we wonder why the church is not growing. Well that is one of the reasons, brethren.

An elder can stand up to endorse a preacher's sermon before an audience of sectarians and make some silly, sarcastic remark and cause them to never return. "Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath." (Jas. 1:19.)

In verse nine Paul said, "Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you." Paul did not only teach those things, but they saw Paul practice them in his life. He said, "Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ." (1 Cor. 11:1.)

Is It True?

We invite your attention to this important subject. In His prayer to the Father Jesus said, "Thy word is truth." (John 17:17.) And He also said, "The truth shall make you free." Jesus was talking about the truth concerning God, Christ, the Holy Spirit and salvation of man. He was not talking about the truth concerning farming, etc.

Truth cannot contradict itself. Truth is absolute and singular. Truth never admits alterations. There are never two sides to a question where the truth is concerned. To compromise the truth is sinful. Partial truth is frequently the greatest error.

Let us ask some questions. Is it true that there is no God? I did not ask is it true that some men believe that there is no God. I know some men say that, but I asked is it true that there is no God, according to the word of God? The writer of Hebrews said, "He that cometh to God must believe that he is." (Heb. 11:6.) From this we learn that it is imperative that we believe in God. Job said, "I know that my Redeemer liveth." (Job 19:25.) He did not say, "I guess," but he knew that his (2 Tim. 1:12.) In Jeremiah 9:24 we read, "But let him that Redeemer lived. Paul said, "I know him whom I have believed." glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth, and knoweth me." In Psalm 14:1 we read, "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God." Therefore according to God's word, which is truth, God is.

Some infidels teach that God did not create man, that man is a product of evolution. Does the Bible, the word of God, teach this? Is it true? In Genesis 2:7 we read, "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." In Psalm 119:73 we read, "Thy hands have made me and fashioned

me." Again, "I am fearfully and wonderfully made." (Ps. 139:14.) "Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that made us, and not we ourselves." (Ps. 100:3.) Not only did God make man but He blessed him with an intellect, and an everlasting soul that outlives everything in the universe. (Mk. 8:36.)

God has also given the word to save man's soul. "Receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls." (Jas. 1:21.) The word of God, the truth, is indispensable to the salvation of the souls of men. It is often said that men can be converted without the word. Is it true? Jesus taught that the word of God is the seed of the kingdom. (Lk. 8:11.) Where the word of God has never been planted there are no Christians. If a man can be converted without the word of God there is no need for preachers to preach the word. Just give up the pulpit and let men be converted without the word. But that is foolishness. Why go to the trouble and expense to sail across the seas to preach the gospel to those who know not God, if they can be converted without the preaching of the word? Paul knew that those in Rome needed the gospel. (Rom. 1:16.) He instructed Timothy to preach the word. (2 Tim. 4:2.) Those on the day of Pentecost were converted by the word preached by Peter (Acts 2:41), and the Lord added them to the church. (Acts 2:47.)

The Redeeming Blood

The Lord Jesus Christ said, as He gave the Lord's supper to His disciples, "For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins." (Matt. 26:28.) Jesus emphatically states that the purpose of shedding His blood was for the remission of sins. To deny that Christ shed His blood for the remission of sins is to challenge the integrity of the lamb of God, who died for the sins of the world.

Blood has played an important part in behalf of man from the very beginning. "In process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the Lord. And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the Lord had respect unto Abel and to his offering: but unto Cain and to his offering he had no respect." (Gen. 4:3-5.) We can see that the first bloody sacrifice we read about in the Bible was important unto God. And all through the Old Testament we read of bloody sacrifices offered unto God. But these sacrifices did not bring remission of sins. "For it is

not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins." (Heb. 10:4.) "But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year." (Heb. 10:3.) Each year it was necessary for the worshipper to offer a sacrifice unto God for his sins. Under the law of Moses the high priest would go into the most holy place once a year, "not without blood, which he offered for himself and for the errors of the people; the Holy Ghost thus signifying, that the way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest, while as the first tabernacle was yet standing. . . . But Christ being come a high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place [heaven], having obtained eternal redemption for us. For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh; how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?" (Heb. 9:7-14.) And we also read, "And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: but this man [Jesus], after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God." (Heb. 10:11, 12.) We are therefore forced to come to Jesus, the lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

The bloody sacrifices under the law of Moses were for the benefit of the Jews only. But the blood of Christ is for the benefit of both Jews and Gentiles. Christ charged His apostles to preach repentance and remission of sins to all nations. (Lk. 24:46.) Before His death, Jesus charged His disciples, saying, "Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not; but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." (Matt. 10:5.) But after the Lord ascended to heaven, after the church was established, apostles went forth and preached Christ to the Gentiles also. Paul said, "Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; that at that time ye [Gentiles] were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: but now, in Christ Jesus, ye

who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us [Jews and Gentiles]; having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man [the church], so making peace." (Eph. 2:11-15.) Paul declares here that Gentiles were blessed *in Christ*. And in Christ they were "made nigh by the blood of Christ." It was the blood of Christ that brought salvation to the Gentiles and the Jews. All spiritual blessings are in Christ. (Eph. 1:3.) In Christ we have redemption through His blood, "even the forgiveness of sins." (Col. 1:14.) Now only through baptism can one get into Christ. "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?" (Rom. 6:3.) "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ." (Gal. 3:27.) Now in the light of these Scriptures, there is no need for any denominational preacher to claim that a man has had his sins washed away in the blood of Christ before he is baptized into Christ, before he is a member of the body of Christ, which is His church. Because a man's sins are washed away in the blood of Christ *only* when he is baptized into Christ. (Acts 22:16.) The saved, those who have been baptized into Christ, constitute the church. And Christ purchased the church with His blood. (Acts 20:28.) The church is the only thing He ever purchased with His blood. The church only has been washed in the blood of Christ. "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot." (1 Pet. 1:18, 19.) This also indicates the value God has placed on the church. Men value a thing by the price placed upon it. If it cost little, it is not considered very valuable; but if it cost a lot, it is valued highly. The church cost the blood of Christ. All the gold and silver and precious stones on earth could not purchase the church.

It is more valuable than all these, but it was bought, redeemed, by the blood of Christ. Yet some people will speak disrespectfully of the church as though it was no more than a human organization, in which there is no salvation. A man does not have to be a member of a denomination to be saved, but there are no saved souls outside the church that Christ bought

with His blood. Men who speak lightly of the church of Christ also speak lightly of His blood, by which He redeemed the church.

God Is a Respector of Persons

In a meeting this year I received a question that read: "One night you quoted Acts 10:34 that said God is no respecter of persons, and another night you mentioned that only members of the church of Christ can be saved. According to such reasoning God is a respecter of persons if He saved only those in the church of Christ."

After thanking the audience for the letter, I announced my subject for that night would be, "God Is a Respector of Persons." In Acts 10:34 Peter said, "Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: but in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is acceptable to him." The apostle Peter is teaching beyond a doubt that God is no respecter of persons. He was preaching to a Gentile audience for the first time, and he is saying that God makes no distinction between Jew and Gentile, but any man is acceptable to God provided he fears God and works righteousness. So God is no respecter of persons as to who he is, whether rich or poor, bond or free, male or female, Jew or Greek (Gal. 3:26-29), but on the other hand God does respect the person who fears Him and works righteousness. David said, "Let my tongue sing of thy word; for all thy commandments are righteousness." (Ps. 119:172.) And Samuel said to Saul, "Thou hast done foolishly; thou hast not kept the commandment of Jehovah thy God, which he commanded thee: for now would Jehovah have established thy kingdom upon Israel for ever." (1 Sam. 13:13.) Peter said, He that would love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile; and let him turn away from evil, and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it. For the eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their supplication: but the face of the Lord is upon them that do evil." (1 Pet. 3:10-12.) So the Lord respects some people and some He does not respect. His eyes are upon the righteous, but the face of the Lord is upon them that do evil. Paul said, "He became unto all them that obey him the author of eternal salvation." (Heb. 5:9.) Jesus is not the author of salvation to those who refuse to obey Him. In this He does respect persons. Jesus said, "Ye shall know the truth, and the

truth shall make you free." (John 8:32.) Paul said that God "would have all men to be saved, and come to the knowledge of the truth." (1 Tim. 2:4.) So it is necessary for a man to know the truth to be saved, but some men refuse to accept the truth. Even while Jesus preached to them, some closed their eyes and stopped their ears. (Matt. 13:15.) God therefore respects those who will hear and obey the truth and He rejects those who will not. Paul said in the Roman letter, that God "will render to every man according to his works: to them that by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and incorruption, eternal life." (Rom. 2:6, 7.) Eternal life will be the reward of the Christian. "But unto them that are factious, and obey not the truth, but obey unrighteousness, shall be wrath and indignation, tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that worketh evil." (Rom. 2:8, 9.)

Now in all of these Scriptures we learn that God respects some men and some He does not respect. He respects those who fear Him and worketh righteousness, those who love and obey the gospel of the Lord Jesus. But those who obey the gospel become Christians, and these constitute the church of Christ. That is what the church is, *the saved*. The Lord adds the saved to the church, therefore all the saved are in the church. (Acts 2:47.) So God respects those who are members of His church, and He rejects those who are not members. But strictly speaking, God does not respect persons, but God does respect character. And every man is a creator of his own character. Some men are Christian characters and some are not, because some men obey the gospel and live by God's word, some do not. He does not respect a man because he is a Jew any longer, but He does respect the character that fears and obeys God.

We Are Debtors

In Romans 1:14-16 the apostle Paul used these words: "I am debtor both to the Greeks and to the Barbarians, both to the wise and to the unwise. So as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you also that are at Rome. For I am not ashamed of the gospel: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."

The great apostle Paul classes himself as a debtor, he is in debt to the wise and the unwise. In what way is Paul in debt to these people? Had he borrowed their money and had not paid them back? No, Paul was in debt to them, to preach unto them

the gospel of Christ, which is the power of God unto the salvation of their souls.

Not only was Paul in debt to preach the gospel but every member of the church of Christ is in debt, because of the fact that the church is the pillar and ground of the truth, and in John 8:32 Jesus said the truth makes men free. Therefore, it is an evident fact that men are not made free from sin until they know and obey the truth. Some people ask the question, does John 8:32 mean free from sin? Let us look at Romans 6:17. "But God be thanked that ye were the servants of sin, but ye obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness."

The thought that I want our readers to get is that we (Christians) are in debt. We are in debt to preach the gospel to the whole world. Not only is that so, but knowing that God is no respecter of persons we must preach it to every nation under heaven.

First we are in debt to God the Father and His Son Jesus Christ. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16.) And, "We love him because he first loved us." (1 John 4:19.) And again in Romans 5:8, "But God commandeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

We are in debt to each other as Christians to respect and love one another. Peter said, "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently." (1 Pet. 1:22.) Love is commanded. Brother Harris, how many brethren should I love? Peter gives the answer, "Love the brotherhood." (1 Pet. 2:17.) And we younger preachers ought to respect and love the older brethren who have written so many wonderful books for us to study and obtain a greater knowledge of God's word.

We are in debt to respect the bride of Christ, which is the church. We are in debt to the Holy Spirit, and the apostles who gave us the written word. We are in debt to translators and commentators. We are in debt to our many wonderful Christian schools and colleges. We are in debt to our great debaters, living and dead. We are in debt to our fine elders over the brotherhood. We are in debt to many wonderful gospel preachers

who so boldly declare the whole counsel of God. Brethren, there are many more persons I could mention that we are in debt to, but this will suffice. Always remember we are debtors.

Has the Bible Failed You?

Out of all the books produced over the great wide world the Bible is the greatest book. It is great because it contains the mind of God and is the product of God. But alas, the Bible is a book that has failed many men. Have you been disappointed with the Bible? Has the Bible supported you in what you believe and preach, or has it failed you?

The Bible has failed denominational preachers in many instances. It failed to endorse the division among professed Christians that denominationalism has produced. The Bible says, "I beseech you, brethren, . . . that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfected together in the same mind and in the same judgment." (1 Cor. 1:10.) The Lord prayed that His people might be one that the world might believe that God had sent Him. (John 17:21.)

The Bible has also failed to teach the mourners' bench system of salvation. "We know that God heareth not sinners; but if any man be a worshipper of God, and do his will, him he heareth." (John 9:31.) "For the eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and his ears unto their supplication: but the face of the Lord is upon them that do evil." (1 Pet. 3:12.)

The Bible has failed to teach men to *get religion*. But James says, "Pure religion and undefiled before our God and Father is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world." (Jas. 1:27.) Religion isn't something that a man gets and sometimes loses, it is a life to live and service to render in the name of the Lord.

The Bible has failed to produce the verse that teaches men to worship Mary, the mother of Jesus. Neither does the Bible teach men that it is wrong to eat meat and marry. This is a doctrine of men. (1 Tim. 4:14.) Jesus said, "Who is my mother and my brethren? . . . Behold, my mother and my brethren! For whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother." (Mk. 3:33-35.)

Furthermore, the Bible failed to teach the old saying, "Every tub shall stand on its own bottom." Or the saying, "Men will get wiser and weaker." Neither does the Bible teach that the parents

carry the sins of the child until he is twelve years old. All of this is chimney-corner Scripture. It is not found in the Bible.

The Bible has failed to speak of a Baptist Church, a Methodist Church, a Mormon Church, a Lutheran Church, or any kind of a man-made church. But it does reveal the church of Christ, the church that Christ built of which He is the head, and which He bought with His blood. (Matt. 16:18; Acts 20:28; Eph. 1:22.) The Bible does not fail men when they are satisfied to speak as God's word speaks. But the Bible will not support the doctrines and theories of men. This is why men ought to study God's word diligently. If we are not going to follow the Bible and it alone, we might just as well burn it up. But it will never fail the man who is faithful to the Lord.

The World Needs Christ

In John 3:16 we read, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." In this verse we find God is the great and generous giver, that the gift is Christ, and the world is the receiver of this gift. The world must have need of Christ else God with all His infinite wisdom would not have given His Son to die for the world. The world means those who are unbelievers and those who serve sin. "He that believeth not is condemned already." (John 3:18.) In Hebrews 11:6 we read, "Without faith it is impossible to please" God.

The world needs the obedience of Christ. "Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; and being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him." (Heb. 5:8.) The world needs to be strong in faith as was old father Abraham. In Hebrews 11:8 we read, "By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went." Many people today want to know every little technical thing before obeying the Lord. And concerning Abraham again we read in Romans 4:20, "He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; and being fully persuaded, that which he had promised, he was able also to perform."

The reason many in the world will not accept the Christ, is they are slaves to wealth. Moses will rise up in the judgment as a witness against them. For "by faith Moses, when he was come of years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter;

choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompense of reward." (Heb. 11:24-26.) The apostle Paul shall also witness against the world. Hear him in Philippians 3:5: "Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, and a Hebrew of Hebrews: as touching the law, a Pharisee. . . . And I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ."

The world needs the blood of Christ. Paul said, "Without shedding of blood is no remission." (Heb. 9:22.) And in Matthew 26:28 we read, "For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins." (Read also Col. 1:14; 1 John 1:7.) The world needs to leave the power of darkness and come into the kingdom of Christ. God "hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son." (Col. 1:13.) The kingdom is the church. (Matt. 16:18.) The world needs also the name of Christ. The name of Christ is the exalted name. "Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name." (Phil. 2:9.) The name of Christ is the saving name. "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." (Acts 4:12.)

The world needs to obey Christ and live in Christ faithfully unto death. Jesus said, "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." (Rev. 2:10.) "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord." (Rev. 14:13.) Many times denominational preachers quote John 3:16 and say that God has done it all. But that is not true. God has, in giving His Son to die for the world, provided salvation for all, but all men must accept this salvation by obeying the gospel of Christ. God has a part, Christ has a part, the Holy Spirit has a part and man has a part in the plan of salvation. This is why Peter said, "Save yourselves from this untoward generation." (Acts 2:40.) That is, from the fate of this wicked generation who would be lost because they refused to obey Christ.

Yes, friends, it was for the world that my Lord endured the shame of the cross, with mangled feet trod the winepress of sorrow alone, felt the thorny crown, the painful prints of the nails and the thrust of the spear in His side, from which side flowed

His precious blood to purchase the church of the living God. Yes, the church of Christ is the greatest institution on the face of God's green earth. It is the church that stands as the gate of heaven, the way to enter bliss and joy. The way that leadeth to the throne of the Majesty on high, where the souls of men shall never die. *Remember, the world needs Christ.*

There Is No Difference

The apostle Paul said in Romans 3:21,22, "But now that the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets; even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference." The apostle is saying that God no longer makes a difference between Jews and Gentiles. That His way of making a man righteous as revealed in the gospel of Christ, is for all men, whether Jews or Gentiles. "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." (Rom. 3:23.) "Is he the God of the Jews only? is he not also of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also." (Rom. 3:29.)

There is therefore no difference in the nations today. The plan of salvation revealed in the gospel of Christ is for all nations. Peter preached the gospel first to the Jews on the day of Pentecost. (Acts 2.) Later he preached the same gospel to the Gentiles in Caesarea. He began that sermon by saying, "Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: but in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is acceptable with him." (Acts 10:34, 35.) When Jesus gave the great commission to His apostles He said, "Preach the gospel to every creature." (Mk. 16:15.) The gospel of Christ therefore is for all. He did not give one gospel to the Jews and one to the Gentiles; one to the rich and one to the poor; one to the free and one to the slave, but the gospel is for all.

Paul said some men perverted the gospel of Christ in his day. He said, "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed." (Gal. 1:6-8.) There was only one gospel in Paul's day and there is only one true gospel today. "There is no difference." And when one man preaches one doctrine and another man down the street preaches

another doctrine, both claiming to be preaching the gospel of Christ, we know somebody is wrong. We know one is wrong, and the possibility is both are wrong. Both cannot be right, for there is only one true gospel of Christ. John said, "Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God." (2 John 9.)

In the days of the apostles people were saved in the name of Christ. Peter said, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." (Acts 4:12.) Philip preached "the name of Jesus Christ." (Acts 8:12.) Men were commanded to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, that is, by His authority. (Acts 2:38.) Christians were commanded to do all in the name of Christ. (Col. 3:17.) And "there is no difference" today. The same name by which men were saved in the days of the apostles is the name by which men are to be saved today.

Neither is there any difference in the worship today. In the days of the apostles Christians were taught to sing, eat the Lord's supper in memory of Jesus, to pray, to lay by in store and to study the word. The Lord has not changed His word since then and taught people to do something else in worship. For example, when the Lord taught the people to sing and make melody in the heart (Eph. 5:19), He intended we do the same today. He does not authorize us today to make melody on an organ or piano or any other kind of mechanical instrument. But we are to make melody in our hearts, and we do that when we sing.

There is no difference in baptism. Paul said in Ephesians 4:5, "One Lord, one faith, one baptism." That baptism was "for the remission of sins." (Acts 2:38.) Paul was told to "arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins." (Acts 22:16.) Peter said, "Baptism doth also now save us." (1 Pet. 3:21.) Hiscox's Manual says it is different now, that we are not to be baptized to be saved, or to have our sins washed away. But Hiscox's Manual is wrong. "There is no difference." The New Testament teaches the same on baptism today as it did when the apostles preached.

Furthermore the Lord built only one church. He said, "Upon this rock I will build my church." (Matt. 16:18.) We also read, "Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it." (Ps. 127:1.) I know Martin Luther, John Wesley, C. H. Mason, John Calvin, Roger Williams, George Fox, William Miller or John Smyth did not build the Lord's church. Neither did John the Baptist build it. When Jesus promised to build it, John the

Baptist was dead. And He had kept His promise and built His church before these others were born. So you see, John the Baptist was too early and the rest too late. The Lord built the church and He built one for all the nations. He did not build one for the Jews and one for the Gentiles, but one for all. We are all baptized into one body, the church, whether Jews or Gentiles. (1 Cor. 12:13.) Neither does the Lord let every man "join the church of his choice," and if he doesn't find one to suit him, build him a new one. The only choice any man has is to obey God or obey Satan. When he obeys God, the Lord will add him to His church. (Acts 2:47.)

The Narrow Way

In the great sermon on the mount Jesus said, "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." (Matt. 7:13, 14.)

Jesus makes Himself very clear in describing the two ways. The broad way leads to destruction and the narrow way leads unto life. On the broad way that leads to destruction there would be many, while few traveled the narrow way. The word *strait* means narrow, restricted. Entering the narrow way therefore calls for self-denial and humility on the part of those who would walk therein. This way leads unto the life that is in Christ Jesus. "And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son." (1 John 5:11.) Men can obtain this life only when they come to Jesus in humility and self-denial. "Whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." (Rev. 22:17.) And the Lord said, "Come unto me, . . . and I will give you rest." (Matt. 11:28.) And again He said, "And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life." (John 5:40.) Peter said, "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time." (1 Pet. 5:6.) The Lord said, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me." (Matt. 16:24.) All of these Scriptures teach us the kind of man a man must be in order to enter the narrow way.

If men do not come in humility, denying themselves, Jesus cannot use them. The narrow way is too restricted for pomp and pride. The self-righteous walk in the broad way. The humble and obedient walk in the narrow way.

The narrow way is too restricted for denominationalism also. There is not a denomination on earth that can fit into the narrow way. Denominations are of human origin and they foster division, and division breeds strife and jealousy. (1 Cor. 1:10; John 17:21.) Any preacher who preaches denominational doctrine does not fit into the narrow way. I know some men think they are in the narrow way, but they are deceived. "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man; but the end thereof are the ways of death." (Prov. 14:12.)

When people join denominations, which are human religious organizations, and give their money to support them and their talents to propagate them, they fail to walk in the narrow way. God's word does not authorize these things. God's way is too restricted to allow human doctrines and false teachers to enter.

People sometimes boast that the denominations are bigger than the Lord's church, and that this is evidence they are right. But this is not true. The majority were drowned in the flood, while only eight were saved in the ark. God's people have always, as a rule, been in the minority, while the unrighteous are in the majority. But to be on God's side and on the side of the truth is to be on the side of the majority. These are bigger and more important than great multitudes of people. The Lord said there would be few in the narrow way. We must enter the way that leads to life. We must believe on the Lord, repent of our sins and be baptized into Christ in order to enter the narrow way. Then if "we walk in the light as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." (1 John 1:7.)

A Stone for Bread

In Luke 11:11 we have these wonderful words, "If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask for a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent?" It would be mean on the part of any father whose son would ask him for bread, to give him a stone. It would be hard to find a father who would give his son a stone for bread, or a snake for a fish. Every father who loves God's word knows that he is not only commanded to feed his son bread for the body, but also food for the soul. Jesus said, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." (Matt. 4:4.) Paul said, "And, ye fathers, provoke not your chil-

dren to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." (Eph. 6:4.)

A very dangerous practice found in the land today is fathers allowing their children to go with friends to denominational churches where they receive from the denominational preacher a stone for bread. I am talking about the false doctrine such preachers feed them. False doctrine is about as beneficial to the child's soul as a stone for bread. What good is a stone when a child's soul is starving for Jesus, the bread of life? Any preacher that will stand before an audience of hungry souls and teach them that they have nothing to do to be saved is giving them a stone for bread. He is giving them a serpent for a fish. The Bible clearly teaches that man must do something to be saved. Jesus said, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." (Matt. 7:21.)

The denominational preacher throws a stone from the pulpit when he preaches that a man dead in sin cannot come to Christ. Christ did not think so. He said, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." (Matt. 11:28.) So the wicked can hear God and come to Him. In Isaiah 55:3, we read, "Incline your ear, and come unto me; hear, and your soul shall live." Again the prophet said, "Seek ye the Lord while he may be found; call ye upon him while he is near: let the wicked forsake his way, and the righteous man his thoughts, and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon." (Isa. 55:6, 7.) In Acts 10:34, Peter said, "He that feareth him [God], and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him."

One of the most hurtful stones a preacher can throw at his audience is the doctrine of annihilation. This doctrine says that a soul ceases to live after it leaves the body. But Solomon said, "The dust returneth to the earth as it was, and the spirit returneth unto God, who gave it." (Eccles. 12:7.) They teach that the spirit of man is but the breath of man. What then did Jesus commend to God when He said, "Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit; and having said this, he gave up the ghost." (Lk. 23:46.) People who teach this doctrine tell us that hell is not everlasting, that a man's soul does not suffer in hell forever and ever. Jesus said, "These shall go away into *eternal punishment*." (Matt. 25:46.) The devil tried to remove the fear of punishment when he told Eve she would not die if she ate the forbidden

fruit. And she ate the forbidden fruit. And today, through false teachers, he is trying to remove the fear of hell. Paul said, that those who obey not the gospel shall suffer punishment, even eternal destruction. (1 Thess. 1:7-9.) Whoever goes to hell will be alive when he gets there and be alive as long as he stays there and that will be forever. As long as people believe and teach that there is no hell they will continue to live wicked. But the wicked "shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever." (Rev. 20:10.)

The Baptist Manual and Baptism

Baptist manuals claim that baptism is essential to obedience but not essential to salvation. They also state that their church utterly repudiates the dogma of baptismal regeneration. I believe with all my heart that the men who wrote the manuals were sincere and conscious of the grave responsibility they were assuming in setting before men the manuals as guide books. But the manuals teach error and will lead people away from God.

The proof that baptism is essential to salvation is overwhelming in the Bible. In Mark 16:16, Jesus said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." The Baptist preachers teach the very opposite from Jesus by saying that a man is baptized *because he is already saved*. One could not make that statement that Jesus made to people that are already saved. In Acts 2:38 Peter told the people on Pentecost to repent and be baptized *for the remission of sins*. He did not tell them only to be baptized for the remission of sins, but he told them also to repent for remission of sins. Whatever they were told to be baptized for they were also told to repent for, and that was *for the remission of sins*.

The Baptist preacher says *for* means that they were baptized because of or because they had already received remission of sins. This could not be true because the people were guilty of killing the Lord Jesus, so they asked what they must do. Do for what? To get the sin of murder off their souls. It would be plain folly on the part of any preacher to tell a man to repent for the remission of sins when his sins had already been forgiven. In Luke 5:32, Jesus said, "I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." Jesus is calling sinners to repentance, while Baptist preachers are calling saved people to repentance.

One time a Baptist preacher was holding a meeting and in his sermon he said that *for* in Acts 2:38 meant that they had already

received remission of sins. He was heard by a preacher of the gospel, a member of the Lord's church, and this gospel preacher and his wife invited the Baptist preacher to their home for dinner. The preacher and his wife went into the dining room to eat dinner, leaving the Baptist preacher in the living room. After dinner they came into the living room and the Baptist preacher said to them, "I thought you invited me here for dinner." The gospel preacher replied that he certainly did, but *for dinner* meant that he had already received dinner, like he said *for the remission of sins* meant that those on Pentecost had already received remission of sins.

Baptism is essential because it is then that the sinner has his sins washed away. (Acts 22:16.) Baptism also saves us. (1 Pet. 3:21.) It puts one into Christ. (Gal. 3:26, 27.) In baptism we contact the cleansing blood of Christ. (Rom. 6:3-6.) Without baptism we can never enter the kingdom of God. (John 3:5.) Without baptism we can never be regenerated. (Tit. 3:5.) Without baptism we can never become new creatures in Christ Jesus. (2 Cor. 5:17.) So sinner friend, "arise and be baptized" and the Lord will wash your sins away, and walking in the newness of life, having your fruits unto holiness and the end eternal life.

The Rock of Offense

In 1 Peter 2:7 the apostle Peter said, "Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner. And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed."

Peter tells us that Christ is precious to the believer. He is the precious Lamb of God who died for their sins, but to those that are disobedient, Christ is a rock of offense and a stone of stumbling. We read in Hebrews 5:8, 9, "Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; and being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him." "Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. For if the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward; how shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation." (Heb. 2:1-3.)

It is evident from these Scriptures that Christ is a rock of offense to the disobedient. The disobedient shall see the wrath of God in the final consummation of all things. Christ is the rock of offense to the infidel. Jesus said, "I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins." (John 8:24.) Not only must men believe in Christ but they must believe in God. To come to God men must believe in Him. "Without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." (Heb. 11:6.) In Psalm 14:1 we read, "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God."

To the average Jew of our day and time Christ is a rock of offense. In 1 Corinthians 1:22-24 Paul said, "For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom: but we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; but unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God." Every Jew must repent before he leaves this world. Jesus spoke to them in this wise. "The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: because they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas is here." (Matt. 12:41.) Again He said, "I tell you, Nay: but except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." (Lk. 13:3.) If the whole Jewish race perish it can never be chargeable to God. Peter said, "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is long-suffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." (2 Pet. 3:9.)

Christ is also a rock of offense to the worldly Christian. John said, "Love not the world." (1 John 2:15.) No man can serve two masters. Paul spoke about a sister that lived in pleasure as being dead while she lived. (1 Tim. 5:6.) Christ is a rock of offense to the compromising Christian. Jude commanded Christians to contend for the faith. (Jude 3.) We are warned in Isaiah 5:20, "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!"

As members of the church, the blood-bought institution, we must tell people the danger of dying out of Christ and tell them how to get into Christ where salvation is found. A man must believe on the Lord, repent of his sins, confess his faith in Christ

and be baptized into Christ. Then his sins are blotted out by the blood of Christ., and as a child of God he must be faithful in the service of God. (Matt. 24:10-13.)

We Have Been Falsely Accused

To be accused of something we are guilty of is not so disheartening. Many times we appreciate someone pointing out our mistakes. But to be accused of something of which we are not guilty brings sadness.

The church of the Lord has always been misrepresented, and today men accuse the church of believing and practicing false doctrine. We have been accused of not believing in the Old Testament. But we do believe the Old Testament. We believe Jesus when He said, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." (Matt. 4:4.) Paul said, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God." (2 Tim. 3:16.) But we do not believe that all is written in the Old Testament is applicable to us. We do not believe that God wants us to build an ark to be saved or to keep the covenant of circumcision, and many other things taught in the Old Testament. But we believe it all.

We are accused of not believing in the power of the blood of Christ. But we do. Paul said, "Apart from the shedding of blood there is no remission." (Heb. 9:22.) "The Son of man came . . . to give his life a ransom for many." (Matt. 20:28.) "Ye were not redeemed with corruptible things . . . but with the precious blood of Christ." (1 Pet. 1:18, 19.) We are baptized into His death and here we come into the benefits of His shed blood. (Rom. 6:3, 4.)

We are also accused of not being familiar with the law of Moses. I do not know how familiar our accusers want us to be with the law of Moses, but we are familiar enough with it to know that we are not under it. Paul said, "For ye are not under the law, but under grace." (Rom. 6:14.) "The law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ." (John 1:17.) By the deeds of the law shall no man be justified. (Rom. 3:19.) "What things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law."

We are accused of being narrow. But we are as broad or as narrow as the word of God will permit. We are as broad as the apostle John in that we abide in the teaching of Christ. (2 John 9.) We are as narrow as Jeremiah in that we call men to stand

in the good way and walk therein. We stand in Christ which is the way. (John 14:6.) We speak as the oracles of God speak. (1 Pet. 4:11.) We go not beyond that which is written. (1 Cor. 4:6.)

Some people accuse us of putting too much stress on baptism. But we put no more stress on baptism or any other command than Jesus and the apostles put on them. Jesus said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." (Mk. 16:16.) Again He said, "Except one be born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." (John 3:5.) Peter commanded Cornelius and his household to be baptized. (Acts 10:48.) We teach exactly what Christ and the apostles taught on baptism. Is that putting too much stress on baptism?

We should remember that only the truth will make us free. (John 8:32.) Jesus said, "Thy word is truth." (John 17:17.) Anything that God's word does not teach is not truth. If we taught men to get religion, come to the mourner's bench, sprinkling for baptism, the baptism of babies, salvation before baptism, instrumental music in worship, etc., we would not be teaching the truth, for these things are not found in the teaching of Christ. And regardless of how often other men may teach them every Lord's Day they have no power to save. Only one thing saves us, God's word. (Jas. 1:21.)

Stumbling Blocks

All over our fine land many preachers of the gospel are holding meetings in order that the lost might be drawn to Christ. But the preachers come in contact with many stumbling blocks that hinder the cause of Christ. These stumbling blocks are often members of the body of Christ. Many members are displaying so much immorality before the people of the world that it is downright shameful. The preacher has a big enough job to fight the opposition of Satan out of the church, not to be burdened down with the misconduct of the members of the church.

Many times elders fret when the time comes to pay the preacher for holding a meeting, because no one responded to the invitation. But knowing the members as they do, they should know where the fault lies. Furthermore, elders ought to feel the responsibility to feed and guide and rebuke when necessary members of the church. Paul says they will have to give account to God for the way they meet their responsibility as elders. (Heb. 13:17.)

Many members drink alcoholic beverages and come to the meeting with their friends that they drink with, supposing to help the attendance. But all the sects know them, and they judge the whole meeting according to these brothers. The preacher does not often convert friends of our drinking brothers. They are just stumbling blocks to the preacher and the church.

Not many weeks ago a preacher was holding a meeting, and the song leader was arrested for stealing. Naturally that terminated the meeting. Not long ago I preached the funeral of a brother who died while in prison. He became sick in prison and was taken to the city hospital, where he died. It was an embarrassing situation to preach the funeral of a brother who had yielded to temptation. Many of the sects came to see if I would put him in heaven. I preached on "Why he was a member of the church of Christ," and I pointed out to the audience why they should be in the Lord's church. The Lord's minister must preach against sin in the church in every meeting, so people will know that we do not tolerate ungodly things the members do from time to time.

Many people think that the sins of one member will corrupt the entire church. It is true the whole church must suffer, like Israel did when Achan sinned (Judges 7), but "the soul that sinneth, it shall die." (Ezek. 18:4.) Paul said, God "will render to every man according to his works." (Rom. 2:6.) The sin of Judas, one of the apostles, did not keep the Lord from building His church. And we must go on and be faithful even if there are some members who live ungodly lives. They must answer to God for their sins, but the church will go on.

I have heard sectarians say that the moral standard of the body of Christ is too low. They do not understand that the kingdom of heaven is like a net that catches all manner of fishes, some good, some bad, but there will be a separation when the judgment day comes. In Tennessee a group of brethren assembled for a business meeting, and they started such a big argument that a man that had recently come from the Baptists said in his twenty years in the Baptist Church he had never seen men fuss so much in the house of God. Brethren, these things ought not to be. I pray to see the day when preachers will rebuke and reprove with godly fear that stumbling blocks might vanish out of the house of God forever, that we might be pure and acceptable when Jesus comes to receive His bride in that great day. "For without are dogs, and

sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie." (Rev. 22:15.)

Sound Doctrine

Paul admonished Titus to hold "fast the faithful word" as he had been taught, "that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort, and to convince the gainsayers." (Tit. 1:9.) The apostle charged Titus to preach sound doctrine. This implies that there are doctrines that are not sound. If all preachers of the gospel would teach sound doctrine the prayer of our Lord would be answered. Jesus prayed on the night He was betrayed by Judas, "Neither pray I for these alone [the apostles], but for them also which shall believe on me through their words; that they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me." (John 17:20, 21.) The world will not believe that division and strife among professed believers is the fruit of Christianity. God is not the author of confusion; He is a God of peace.

Many times Romans 5:1 is misrepresented. Denominational preachers tell us that this Scripture teaches that a man is *saved by faith only*. But the words "justified by faith" in this passage of Scripture is a comprehensive statement. It includes hearing the gospel, believing on the Lord, repenting of sins, confessing Christ, and being baptized for the remission of sins. As an example take the word build. If I tell a man I have built a house, he understands what that includes. I do not have to tell him that I sawed the lumber, drove the nails, painted it, etc., but he understands that the word build includes all of this.

Acts 2:38 is also sometimes not taught correctly. A preacher of a Holiness Church said one day that I was all right but only needed the baptism of the Holy Ghost as is taught in Acts 2:38. I asked him what part of Acts 2:38 speaks of the baptism of the Holy Ghost. He said that part that says, "ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." I then pointed out to him that he would have the same people submitting to two baptisms, because Peter had just told these people "to repent and be baptized . . . for remission of sins" and then they would receive the gift of the Spirit. But Paul said there is *one baptism*. (Eph. 4:5.)

One brother told another brother one day that he was unworthy to eat the Lord's Supper and he quoted this Scripture: "For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body." (1 Cor.

11:29.) This brother thought that the word unworthily referred to the man that partakes of the cup and eats of the bread, but this is wrong. The adverb *unworthily* modifies the two verbs, eateth and drinketh. The adverb refers to the manner in which the Lord's Supper is taken. The American Revised Version says, "in an unworthy manner." Paul was condemning the manner in which they ate the Lord's Supper. (Read 1 Cor. 11:17-22.)

I heard a preacher give his opinion of Hebrews 10:26 one day. Here the writer of this letter says, "For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more *sacrifice* for sins." The preacher shouted at the audience and said, "If you sin wilfully after you have received the knowledge of the truth there is no *forgiveness of sins*." Now the writer of the Hebrew letter did not say that. But he said "no more sacrifice for sins." He had just said that it was not possible that the blood of bulls and goats should take away sin. When a man obeys the gospel of Christ, he doesn't offer an animal sacrifice, but he accepts the sacrifice the Lord made for him. When he rejects that sacrifice there is no other sacrifice made for him. Salvation is only in the Lord.

A Charge To Keep

The thought of this sermon derives from the divine injunction that was given unto the young preacher by the aged apostle Paul. These are his words of wisdom found in 2 Timothy 4:1: "I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine."

Again he admonished him in 2 Timothy 2:2, 3: "And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ." Another exhortation from Paul, 2 Timothy 3:14: "But continue [not discontinue because of distress, hardness or the various fiery trials that may challenge you] thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them."

The words of encouragement were given by one who knew the battle against sin within and without the church of the Lord. He was the one that knew after his departure grievous wolves would rise up not sparing the flock. Not only was Paul wise to the

affairs of this life, but his very life was given, that this teaching might forever be imbedded in the hearts of all gospel preachers.

Paul instructed Timothy to preach the word, not compromise or discredit the word, but with all the power and vigor that he could manifest to preach the word.

A gospel preacher's duty is to expose religious error and persuade men to obey Christ. As Paul once said, "Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men." I cannot help but warn men when I think of the words of the prophet, "The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all nations that forget God." Paul tells in 2 Thessalonians 1:8, 9, how Jesus shall be revealed from heaven in flaming fire, taking vengeance on them that know not God and obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

"God is a Spirit and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." (John 4:24.) God once winked at or overlooked ignorant worship (Acts 17:30), but now all men are commanded to repent. The gospel minister should realize that people are dying every day with no hope, going into that awful place of everlasting destruction.

When men confess to the priest, gospel preachers should inform them that there is one mediator between God and man and that is Jesus Christ. (1 Tim. 2:5.)

When a denominational preacher is caught sprinkling babies, make him prove his reason for such a practice by the Bible. (1 Thess. 5:21.) Baptism is for the remission of sins and babies have no sins. (Ps. 127:3; Matt. 18:3.)

When denominational preachers claim children or babies inherit sin from their mother, ask them to explain the case of the birth of Jesus. He was born of a woman. Christ was not baptized of John in Jordan to remit sins. (1 Pet. 2:22.) He did no sins. Jesus was baptized of John to fulfill all righteousness. (Matt. 3:15.)

The denominational preachers teach that a man is saved or made a Christian before he is baptized. They do not respect the words of Jesus in Mark 16:15, 16, where He placed salvation after baptism. To prove their theory they claim that because Ananias addressed Paul "brother" is proof that he was already saved. In Acts 7:2 Stephen addressed those men "brethren" and later on he said they were stiff-necked, and uncircumcised in heart, and they had resisted the Holy Ghost. No one would dare say that men are saved that resisted the Holy Ghost. Ananias being a Jew addressed Paul who was also a Jew as brother.

When denominational preachers tell the sinner to pray for pardon, the gospel preacher should tell him to arise and be baptized and wash away his sins. (Acts 22:16.)

Gospel preachers should tell people that religion is a thing to do and not get. The religion of Christ is a "doing" religion. The Philippian jailor asked "what must I do?" James said, "be ye doers of the word."

We, as ministers, must tell people to stop making mockery of Christianity by telling ungodly experiences before baptism. Some claim they tell a Christian experience. A man cannot tell a Christian experience until he first becomes a Christian.

Gospel preachers should tell people they are in bondage to sin until released by obedience to the gospel of Christ. (John 8:31, 32.) When we, as preachers, stand before the righteous judge, we can say that we kept back nothing that was profitable unto the people. The church of the Lord is the pillar and ground of the truth.

In your preaching, brethren, make the plan of redemption so plain that men will bow down in submission to Christ, the great Captain of our salvation. And when this battle is fought and the victory is won, when life's dreams are over, when we be aroused out of our beds of clay by the voice of the archangel and the trumpet of God, we will be in that number who will love His appearing. Continue, my beloved brethren, to fight the good fight of faith and hold on to eternal life, that you might enter into that city that Abraham looked for, which hath foundations and whose builder and maker is God, where there will be no tears and no sorrow because God will wipe away all tears.

Is Baptism Essential?

Every man in his right mind should strive to make heaven his final and eternal home. But we should remember "there is a way which seemeth right unto a man; but the end thereof are the ways of death." (Prov. 14:12.) Man should therefore be very careful in his journey from earth to heaven. Regardless of how much men may desire certain things and want to do certain things, they must do the right thing to go to heaven. The expression often heard, that a man may serve God just any way so long as he is sincere, is silly and is not taught in the Bible. It is causing many people to go to their graves unprepared.

Friends, I want you to know that you cannot be saved unless you are baptized unto the remission of your sins. Why should I make such a bold statement? Because Jesus commanded it. Hear Him: "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that disbelieveth shall be condemned." (Mk. 16:16.) He told His disciples to go into all the world and preach that to every creature. Nevertheless, when this Scripture is quoted to a great many people, they still deny that a man must be baptized to be saved. But why did Christ send His disciples into all the world to preach something that has nothing to do with a man's salvation? Why did Peter tell the people on Pentecost, "Repent ye, and be baptized . . . in the name of Jesus Christ unto the remission of your sins"? Why was Paul told to arise and be baptized to wash away his sins? Because they understood that God commanded them to do this in order to be saved.

Why did Paul state that the gospel is the power of God unto salvation, if a man does not have to be baptized to be saved? Baptism is part of the gospel. When the apostles and evangelists went out and preached the gospel, they always taught the people to be baptized, because they knew that baptism is part of the gospel. Paul also said that it pleased God to save man by the preaching of the gospel. When a man faithfully preaches the gospel, he preaches faith in the Lord Jesus, repentance of sins, and baptism for the remission of sins. It must be important and essential to preach the gospel because it pleases God to save men by the preaching of the gospel. Therefore, it pleases God for us to teach men to believe, repent, and be saved.

We also learn from Mark 16:16 that preaching precedes believing and being baptized. They preached the gospel that men might believe. (Rom. 10:14-17; Acts 15:7.) One cannot baptize a man who does not believe. No belief, no baptism. Without faith we cannot please God. (Heb. 11:6.) And when a man is buried in water but does not believe baptism is for the remission of sins, he is not baptized. Without faith he cannot please God. A man cannot please God when he prays without faith, neither can he please God when he is buried in water without faith.

According to the commission given by Mark the order is, believed, baptized, saved. But false teachers change that order and they teach believed, saved, baptized. But suppose I owed one of these preachers \$9.12, and when I get ready to pay him I change the order of the figures and pay him \$2.19. Would he say that I was unfair? But this is what he has done with God's order. Jesus

said, "He that *believeth* and is *baptized* shall be *saved*." But this preacher says, "He that *believes* is *saved*, and then is *baptized* because he is *saved*." Jesus said, "*Believed, baptized, saved*." Some preachers say, "*Believed, saved, baptized*." Who is right?

Some churches claim that all members of the churches are saved whether they are baptized or not. But there is no such thing as an *unbaptized* Christian. The Bible gives us many cases of conversion under the preaching of the apostles and early evangelists, but you will never find where they failed to tell people to be baptized. The church is composed of baptized penitent believers. The saved constitute the church. The Lord adds the saved to the church. (Acts 2:47.) That means that all the saved are in the church and all of those who have not believed and have not been scripturally baptized are outside the church and are therefore lost.

'They Made Light of It'

In Matthew 22 we have the parable of the wedding of the king's son. Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son, and he sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come. . . . But they made light of it." In this story we see the love and mercy of God. David said, "For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting." (Ps. 100:5.) In the story the king said, "I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and my fatlings are killed, and all things are ready: come unto the marriage." I know all will agree with me in saying that there was nothing wrong with the dinner. God's long-suffering is suggested in verse four. The king sent his servants a second time to call those bidden to the feast. We are reminded that God is long-suffering, "not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." (2 Pet. 3:9.)

"But they made light of it." This was the attitude of those invited to the feast. It was to them a matter of little importance. Some people act this way toward the Lord's invitation. They seem to think it is not important that they accept the Lord's invitation, that is is an insignificant matter about which they have little concern. The Lord is constantly inviting sinners to come to Him through obedience to the gospel that they might be saved, but they make light of it. It is a sin against God and all that is sacred and holy to spurn the Lord's invitation.

People today also make light of the Scriptures. Paul said, every

Scripture given by inspiration, is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, correction, instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, furnished completely unto every good work. (2 Tim. 3:16, 17.) Peter tells us that holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit (2 Pet. 1:21), and James says the word of God is able to save our souls. (Jas. 1:21.) Nevertheless people make light of God's word. But my Lord said, "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." (John 8:32.) The truth has the power of emancipation, because when a man is not a child of God he is a slave to sin. "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness." (Rom. 6:16, 17.)

People often make light of sin. I don't see how they can, when Solomon has said, "Sin is a reproach to any people." (Prov. 14:34.) And again, "Be sure your sin will find you out." (Num. 32:23.) Disobedience to God's commandments will keep you out of heaven. "Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city." (Rev. 22:14.) We should respect God's word as did Job, who said, "Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food." (Job 23:12.)

Many make light of the value of their souls. Jesus said, "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" (Mk. 8:36.) Some men make light of the judgment. But all of us will some day stand before the judgment seat of Christ. (2 Cor. 5:10.) Some men make light of hell. They tell us there is no hell. But Jesus said of the rich man, "In hell he lifted up his eyes." (Lk. 16:23.) My friends, never make light of God's word or the plan of salvation revealed in His word.

The Eyes of the Lord

Solomon said, "The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good." (Prov. 15:3.) If my brethren in Christ would constantly keep in mind that the everlasting eyes of the Lord are watching our every action, they would be better children of His. Should we hide behind closed doors and com-

mit adultery, the eyes of the Lord can penetrate the doors regardless of the thickness thereof. When we hide from our brethren and drink strong drinks, we should remember, my brother, the eyes of the Lord are in every place. The Lord sees us.

Some brethren seem to think that it is no sin to steal from a big company like Sears and Roebuck, but that it is wrong to steal from a little concern. But, my brother, stealing is wrong regardless of who may be the victim of the thief. Jesus said, "He that is uprighteous in a very little is unrighteous also in much." (Lk. 16:10.) Paul said, "Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labor, working with his hands the thing that is good, that he may have whereof to give to him that hath need." (Eph. 4:28.)

Some brethren work behind a bar selling whiskey and claim that they are doing a good work. Who will say that selling whiskey is a good work? Since when did getting people drunk become a good work? God sees us and knows all about us in our work.

God also sees what the good men do. When a Christian gives into the treasury of the Lord as the Lord has prospered him, he does not need to blow a trumpet as the Pharisees did. God knows how much he gives. We are told to lay by in store on the first day of the week, "as God hath prospered" us. (1 Cor. 16:2.) I cannot help but see the goodness of God in this Scripture. It teaches us that God gives first. God first prospers us and enables us to give. I am afraid if God prospers some of us according to the amount we give, some would find it difficult to buy a good meal.

The Lord also sees and knows when the husband loves his wife as a Christian husband should. "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it." (Eph. 5:25.) God knows when we speak the truth with our neighbor. He said, "I the Lord search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings. As the partridge sitteth on eggs, and hatcheth them not; so he that getteth riches, and not by right, shall leave them in the midst of his days, and at his end shall be a fool." (Jer. 17:10, 11.) When our heart is pure, God knows that. And when our heart is corrupt, He knows. He knows whether we obtain anything honestly or not. If we did not, in the end we will be proved to be fools. God knows and

sees all. David said, "Whither shall I go from thy Spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me. If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me. Yet, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to thee." (Ps. 139:7-12.) We cannot run away from God, and we cannot hide from God. He knows where we are and what we are doing, both day and night. "There is no creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and laid open before the eyes of him with whom we have to do." (Heb. 4:13.) Therefore we must bear in mind all the time that the eyes of the Lord are in every place beholding the evil and the good.

God-Sent Men

There has been talk among denominational preachers about a "God-sent man." Some claim that they are "God-sent men." But every man that you see walking down the street with a Bible under his arm is not a "God-sent man." God did not send him nor does God always endorse what he preaches.

Do you know how to identify a "God-sent man"? In John 3:34 we read, "He whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God." And in John 17:17 Jesus said, "Thy word is truth." Nicodemus acknowledged Christ to be "a God-sent man." He said, "Thou art a teacher come from God." (John 3:2.) The apostle of John declared that Christ was "a God-sent man." In 1 John 4:9 we read, "God sent his only begotten Son into the world." And the Lord said, "No man can come to me, except the Father that sent me draw him." (John 6:44.) Yes, Jesus was "a God-sent man," and He spoke the words of God. For a preacher to be "a God-sent man" he also must preach the word of God. John the Baptist was "a God-sent man." In John 1:6 we read, "There was a man sent from God, whose name was John." The apostles were "God-sent men." He said, "Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you." (John 20:21).

Now the apostles preached the gospel to all the world. When Christ gave them the great commission He said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." (Mk. 16:16.) This is what the apostles, "God-sent men," preached. But denomina-

tional preachers today will not preach "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." They preach "He that believes is saved, and is baptized because he is saved." This is why I know they are not "God-sent men." God's word teaches that the gospel is God's power unto salvation (Rom. 1:16), and that men are saved by the preaching of the gospel. (1 Cor. 1:21.) But many preachers teach that man is saved by a direct operation of the Holy Spirit independent of the gospel. This is why I know they are not "God-sent men." Paul, "a God-sent man" (1 Cor. 1:1), said the Lord Jesus will render "vengeance to them that know not God, and to them that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus: who shall suffer punishment, even eternal destruction from the face of the Lord and from the glory of his might." (2 Thess. 1:7-9.) But some preachers tell us that men do not have to obey the gospel to be saved, that a man is saved by faith only. This is why I know they are not "God-sent men," for a man sent of God will speak the words of God.

Peter, "a God-sent man," on the day of Pentecost, told the people to "repent ye, and be baptized . . . unto the remission of your sins." (Acts 2:38.) But denominational preachers will not tell people to do this to be saved. This is why I know they are not "God-sent men." A "God-sent man" told people to repent and be baptized unto the remission of sins, and "a God-sent man" will speak the words of God. "For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God." (John 3:24.) Paul preached that the church is the body of Christ (Col. 1:18), and he also taught there are many members, "but one body." (1 Cor. 12:20.) Since the church is the body of Christ, and since there is *but one body*, there is therefore *but one church*. But denominational preachers teach there are something like two hundred fifty-six bodies. Any man who teaches there are two hundred fifty-six bodies, teaches there are two hundred fifty-five too many. Even if he preaches there are two bodies he has added to God's word and proves that he is not "a God-sent man." What will happen to such men? Well, Christ said when the blind lead the blind they shall both fall into the ditch. Let us, therefore, be careful and "prove the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets are gone out into the world." (1 John 4:1.)

Christians Should Grow

The young Christian must take spiritual food at regular intervals in order to grow into strong stalwart manhood.

This spiritual food is the word of God. Can you imagine what would happen if your baby is fed Sunday morning, and then you would wait until the next Sunday to feed him again? Just try feeding him once a day and see how he likes it.

The young Christian must feast on the word of God regularly. The physical man eats three times a day or complains of hunger. Well, how about the spiritual man? Jesus said, "Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness. (Matt. 5:6.)

Can you understand how some church members feast during the big meeting, and then fast until the next year? They are evidently undernourished spiritually if not dead. The babe in Christ must also take pure food. This sincere milk of the word must not be mixed with the doctrine of men, lest the young Christian become sick and weak. Not only must the child in God's family have pure food regularly, but he must breathe pure air. A good feeding of Bible teaching might not be digested if the Christian is placed in an atmosphere where the air is foul and contaminated.

For instance, pool rooms, gambling dens, dance halls, immoral movies and road houses, where the air is bad is not good for the Christian. It is the wrong environment for the child of God. Then finally the Christian must have exercise. Watch the little baby in his crib, as he kicks and exercises his limbs. Exercise is necessary for a normal child. Likewise the babe in Christ must exercise to grow.

Attending all the services of the church is good exercise. Serving humanity is another good service. What happens in the physical life when a child fails to grow? Sometimes you see a person forty years old, yet only two feet tall with the body of a child. It makes one sad to see a person in this condition. The writer of Hebrews tells us that the same condition exists in the spiritual realm. (Hebrews 5:12-14.)

There are some members who have been in the church twenty or thirty years, yet they have not grown to manhood, but are dwarfs. Instead of being able to teach others, someone has to continue to give them milk. They have never gone beyond the ABC's of the gospel. All they know is faith, repentance and baptism. They have never tried to learn other truths from the unsearchable riches of Christ. Brethren, let us determine to encourage one another and go on unto perfection. (Heb. 6:1.) Let us leave the milk diet and grow in grace and knowledge so

that we can take solid food, thereby developing into strong, full-grown Christians.

'Why Did My Saviour Come to Earth?'

The title of a beautiful song we often sing is, "Why Did My Saviour Come to Earth?" My Saviour came to earth because "God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16.) God gave His Son to die for the sins of the whole world. (Heb. 2:9.)

Jesus stated His reason for coming to earth in Luke 19:10. "For the Son of man is come to seek and save that which was lost." He came to redeem those that were under the law. Paul said, "When the fullness of time was come, God sent forth His Son, made of woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons." (Gal. 4:4, 5.) Paul said the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ. (Gal. 3:24, 25.) But when Christ came and gave us the gospel the schoolmaster was no longer needed. The law has been nailed to the cross of Christ, and taken out of the way. (Col. 2:14; 2 Cor. 3:14, 15.) My Saviour came to earth to redeem us with His blood. "Ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot." (1 Pet. 1:18, 19.) We have therefore been bought with a price and no longer belong to ourselves. We belong to Christ. (1 Cor. 6:20.) We are the Lord's bondservants and our lives belong to Him, because He bought us.

Christ also came to condemn the doctrines of men. "Take heed lest there shall be any one that maketh spoil of you through his philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ." (Col. 2:8.)

My Saviour came to earth to build His church. (Matt. 16:18.) This is the church that is right. It started at the right time (Isa. 2:2), it was built by the right person (Ps. 127:1), built in the right city (Lk. 24:47), was purchased with the right price (Acts 20:28), has the right foundation (1 Cor. 3:11), has the right head (Col. 1:18), and the right law. (2 John 9.)

My Saviour came to earth to execute the plan of salvation designed by God, for the salvation of man. According to the gospel

sinner must hear the gospel, believe on the Lord, repent of their sins, be baptized unto the remission of their sins and henceforth serve the Lord in a faithful life unto the end. But when men refuse to accept Christ as their Saviour they cannot be saved. So far as they are concerned the Lord's coming into the world means nothing. All that the Lord did by His coming to the earth is in vain unless we believe on Him and do His will.

'But to Us There Is but One'

In Paul's letter to the church at Corinth he said, "For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, (as there be gods many, and lords many,) but to us there is but one God." (1 Cor. 8:5, 6.) The pagan world had many gods and many lords, but Paul and the Christians in Corinth knew there was but one God. Jesus said, "Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve." (Matt. 4:10.)

Also to us there is but one Lord, the Lord Jesus Christ. "There is . . . one Lord . . . one God and Father of all." (Eph. 4:5.) All things have been put "in subjection under his feet, and gave him to be head over all things to the church." (Eph. 1:22.) Whatever we do in word or deed must be done in His name, that is, by His authority. (Col. 3:17.) Jesus and Jesus Christ only is Lord. The pope is not our lord.

To us there is but one inspired book, the Bible. It is "profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for instruction which is in righteousness: that the man of God may be complete, furnished completely unto every good work." (2 Tim. 3:16, 17.) There are creeds many and doctrines many, but to us there is but one book, inspired of God, the Bible.

To us there is but one church, "For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of the body, being many, are one body; so also is Christ. For in one Spirit were we *all baptized into one body.*" (1 Cor. 12:12, 13.) The one body is the church. "And he is the head of the body, the church." (Col. 1:18.) Since the body of Christ is the church, and since there is one body, there is therefore *one church*. Furthermore, Paul says, "But now they are many members, *but one body.*" (1 Cor. 12:20.)

To us also there is but one baptism. We read in the Bible about the baptism of John (Acts 19:1-7), the baptism of fire and the baptism of the Holy Spirit. (Matt. 3:11), but now there is but one baptism. Paul said, "There is . . . one Lord, one faith, one

baptism." (Eph. 4:5.) This is the baptism named in the great commission when Jesus charged His disciples to "teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." (Matt. 28:19.) This is what Jesus was talking about when He said, "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." (John 3:5.) This is the baptism we also read about in Acts 2:38.

To us there is but one name. Peter said, "And in none other is there salvation: for neither is there any other name under heaven wherein we must be saved." (Acts 4:12.) Peter was talking about the name of Christ. Paul said, "I thank God that I baptized none of you save Crispus and Gaius; lest any man should say that ye were baptized into my name." (1 Cor. 1:15.) He did not teach that he was glad no more were baptized, but that he was glad he had not done the baptizing lest they claimed to be baptized in his name. Some say there is nothing in a name. If that is true, why not be baptized in the name of Paul? But salvation is found only in the name of Jesus.

Furthermore to us there is but one faith, one heaven and hell, one gospel and one plan of salvation. Men must believe in Christ, repent of their sins, confess Christ as Lord, be baptized unto the remission of sins and live faithfully in the service of God. *There is but one way.*

'Then Cometh the Devil'

In the eighth chapter of Luke, verses eleven and twelve, we find these words:

"Now the parable is this: "The seed is the word of God. Those by the wayside are they that hear, then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest any should believe and be saved."

The devil has always been a bitter opponent of the word of God, for the devil realizes that belief and obedience to the word will result in the salvation of men's souls. James said: "Receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls." (Jas. 1:21.) Being fully aware of this the devil works to get the word out of men's hearts, lest they believe and be saved. Peter describes him as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. (1 Pet. 5:8.) He is also described as our adversary. There are two great forces working in the world in respect to the winning of men's souls. The gospel preacher and the devil.

The gospel preacher plants the word in men's hearts that they might believe and be saved and on the other hand the devil's mission is, as Luke says, to take the word out of men's hearts lest they should believe and be saved.

For instance, the gospel preacher teaches men that there is a God. (Eph. 4:6.) The devil teaches that there is no God. Then the devil teaches men that the Scriptures are the product of man. The gospel preacher preaches that salvation is conditional, that is, men must obey to be saved. (Heb. 5:9.) Then cometh the devil teaching men that salvation is unconditional, that is, man is saved by doing nothing, although we know he is a liar, in fact he is the father of lies. (John 8:44.)

The gospel preacher teaches that man is not saved by faith only. (Jas. 2:24.) Then cometh the devil teaching that man is *saved by faith only*. I know the audience can easily see that the devil's teaching is contrary to the word. He deals in lies and falsehoods, and on top of that he never gives one Bible verse to back up his teaching.

The gospel preacher preaches to bring about unity among believers. (Ps. 133:1.) But the devil teaches men that division is better. The gospel preacher preaches that salvation is in the name of Christ. (Acts 4:12.) Then cometh the devil teaching salvation is in any name or no name at all. The gospel preacher preaches that Christians should eat the Lord's supper every first day of the week. (Acts 20:7.) Then cometh the devil teaching that it is all right to receive it once every three months. The gospel preacher preaches one baptism for the Christian age. (Eph. 4:5.) Then cometh the devil teaching there are three baptisms: water, Holy Spirit and fire. The gospel preacher preaches that baptism is a burial in water. (Rom. 6:3, 4.) Then cometh the devil teaching that baptism is a sprinkling burial or immersion. The gospel preacher preaches this one baptism is for the remission of sin. (Acts 2:38.) When one is baptized the Lord washes away his sin. (Acts 22:16.) It puts one into the body of Christ. (1 Cor. 12:13.) This baptism saves. (Mk. 16:16.) Then cometh the devil teaching that baptism will not bring about these spiritual blessings but is merely an outward sign to an inward grace.

The gospel preacher preaches that if a man dies in his sins he can't go where Jesus has gone. (John 8:21.) Also that the wages of sin is death. (Rom. 6:23.) Then cometh the devil teaching that after a man becometh a Christian he can live as sinful as

he wishes, sin can make his soul as black as the interior of a coal mine, and still he can die and meet his maker in peace.

The devil's teaching is not true. Brethren, let us continue to preach the word that the devil may be defeated.

'That Same Jesus'

In Acts 2:36 Peter said, "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made *that same Jesus*, whom ye crucified both Lord and Christ." From the evidence that Peter produced the Jews were made to know that this *same Jesus* did God raise from the dead and made Him both Lord and Christ. And like Peter, all true men of God must preach that the same Jesus the Jews crucified has been raised from the dead. The *same* Jesus, not another Jesus, but the one they had known and had crucified. This proves that God cannot lie. He didn't use trickery, but by His power produced the same Jesus from the grave that had been buried in the grave. No wonder the writer of the Hebrew letter says that He is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

The only hope for the salvation of lost souls today is the preaching and accepting that *same Jesus* that had been crucified and raised from the grave. That same Jesus was preached by Paul, Stephen, Philip, and all the apostles and early evangelists. Paul said, "For I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified." (1 Cor. 2:2.) Stephen said, "Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers." (Acts 7:52.) And as they stoned him, he was able to see Him. He looked up into heaven, and saw the glory of God and that *same Jesus* standing on the right hand of God. (Acts 7:55.) Philip also preached the same Jesus. "Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them." (Acts 8:5.)

By preaching the same Jesus men were added to the body of Christ, the church. Paul said, "That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, of the *same body*, and partakers of his promise in Christ *by the gospel*." (Eph. 3:6.) There are no two ways to get men into the body of Christ. We must preach the one gospel of this same Jesus Christ as did the apostles. Jesus said, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." (Mk. 16:15.) The one gospel is for every man on the face of the

earth. Paul declared that there is not another gospel and that the curse of heaven will rest on the man or angel that preaches another gospel. Therefore men will have to be satisfied with the *same gospel* preached by the apostles, obey it that they might be added to the *same body*, which is the church of Christ. (Col. 1:24.)

If all preachers would preach Jesus as did the apostles, what would be the results? It would mean that all men would believe that *same Jesus*, obey that *same gospel* and be members of the *same body*, the church of the Lord. Churches built by men would cease to exist, and true churches of Christ would be found in every city. Christ would be preached the door of the sheepfold (John 10:9), the way of salvation (John 14:6), and every church would follow the divine pattern in worship. (John 4:24.) Father Divine and the Pope of Rome would no longer be worshiped and men would pray to God and not Mary. May the day soon come when all men will preach only the truth, as did the holy men of God in the long ago.

'And We Cannot Deny It'

In the third chapter of the book of Acts we read how Peter and John, through the power of God, healed a man that was lame from his mother's womb, whom certain persons had laid at the gate which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered the temple.

In the fourth chapter we learn that the priest, captain of the temple and the Sadducees were grieved because Peter and John preached unto the people the resurrection of Christ. Then we read how Annas the high priest and Calaphas and John and Alexander, and as many as were of the kindred of the high priest, commanded Peter and John to go aside out of the council while they conferred among themselves. They said: "What shall we do to these men? for that indeed a notable miracle hath been done by them is manifest to all them that dwell in Jerusalem; and we cannot deny it." (Acts 4:16.)

The last statement is indeed a striking one. "And we cannot deny it." Facts are not easily denied. Men may speak reproachfully against facts but they cannot be denied.

Now, concerning the lame man that was healed, when he was looked upon by the masses of the people it was proof positive that his healing could not be denied. It is said by some that "seeing is believing," but I believe it goes farther than this. To

me, "seeing is knowing." An individual could inform me that my house has burned down and because of the testimony thereof, I believe. But when I come upon the horrible scene, "I therefore know of a surety" as I behold it with my eyes.

There are many things in the world that cannot be denied successfully. It cannot be successfully denied that God exists (Gen. 1:1; Ps. 14:1), that Jesus Christ is His Son (John 3:16), that the Son built a church (Matt. 16:18), that all saved persons are in that church (Acts 2:47), and that the Holy Scriptures came from God. (2 Tim. 3:16.) It cannot be denied that men must search the Scriptures (John 5:39; Acts 17:11; Isa. 34:16), and that men must come to God by Christ. (John 14:6.) It cannot be successfully denied that Christ came to seek and save the lost (Lk. 19:10), that His blood was shed for the remission of sins (Matt. 26:28), that He tasted death for every man (Heb. 2:9), and that He commanded baptism. (Mk. 16:16; Acts 10:48; Matt. 28:19.)

It cannot be denied by ministers, scholars, orators, lecturers, or debaters that baptism is for remission of sin. The inspired apostle Peter's words are against them all. (Acts 2:38.) He said, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins." Who would deny that Peter knew what he was talking about? Before you give your answer, friends, please remember that "holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." (2 Pet. 1:21.) Jesus told His apostles, "Take no thought how or what ye shall speak; for it shall be given you in the same hour what ye shall speak. For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you." (Matt. 10:19.)

Now for the closing quotation. Jesus said, "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the words that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day." (John 12:48.)

The Perfect Law

King David said in Psalm 19:7, "The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple."

From this statement we are informed that God's law is not imperfect, but that it is perfect. When David speaks of God's law, he is speaking of God's commandments, or a revelation of God's will, by which God rules His people.

It is universally understood by the American people that a red light in our city traffic means to stop. We also agree that the green light means to go. The highest ranking officer in our government is our President, and our highest military officer is the General. Therefore if we can agree about the laws or rules of our nation, surely we ought to agree about the law of the Lord.

What is God's law concerning baptism? Jesus gives us the answer in Mark 16:16: "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." There is no man or group of men that can change the perfect law of the Lord about baptism. We are informed in John 10:35, "The scripture cannot be broken." Does baptism save? The question is answered in 1 Peter 3:21, when the apostle Peter gives us the perfect law of the Lord on the subject. "The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us."

Does God have a law governing who is to pray, or whose prayer He will hear? The law is set forth in 1 Peter 3:12: "For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil." Jesus said, "Now we know God heareth not sinners; but if any man be a worshipper of God and doeth his will, him he heareth." (John 9:31.)

When we ask some people about their religious affiliation with the church, they are quick to reply that it is unimportant as to whether or not an individual is a member of any church, and they further state that the church cannot save you anyway. Friends, what is the law of the Lord in regard to the church? Is the Lord's church important or is it unimportant? We turn to Ephesians 3:10 and read God's law. "To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church and the manifold wisdom of God." In 1 Timothy 3:15 Paul tells us that the church is the pillar and ground of the truth. In John 8:32 Jesus said the truth will make men free. If the truth makes men free, and the church is the source from which cometh the truth, then the church must be important, because without the truth men are not free.

The expression, "Join the church of your choice," is prevalent among many religious people, but God's law speaks of *one church*. Therefore there is no choice whether we take that one or do without it. In Matthew 16:18 Jesus said, "Upon this rock I will build my church." Paul called this church the body of Christ (Col. 1:18), and he declares that there is one body. (Eph. 4:4.) Therefore there is *one church*, and if men are ever

saved, they must become members of this one church that the Bible speaks of, or they are eternally lost. If Jesus returns to receive the church unto Himself and they are not in it, they will be lost. Friends, this is the law of the Lord, and it is perfect. So much so that it is able to convert your soul.

Things We Are Right About

Many times people give reasons for not becoming members of certain religious groups. For instance, they will not become a member of the Jehovah's Witness group because they are wrong about the soul of man. They claim that the Methodists are wrong about baptism and the Seventh-Day Adventists are wrong about the law of Moses. They will therefore not become members of these religious groups.

To those who are seeking a church that is right in origin, doctrine, and practice, I submit this sermon. The church of Christ is not wrong in believing the Scriptures are inspired. In 2 Timothy 3:16 we read, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God." We are not wrong for having faith in God and His Son, Jesus. "Without faith it is impossible to please him." (Heb. 11:6.) Jesus said, "If ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins." (1 John 4:24.)

The churches of Christ are not wrong in worship. Jesus said we are to worship God in spirit and truth. (John 4:24.) That is, we worship God from the heart, and what we do in worship is authorized by God's word, which is truth. (John 17:17.) And like the church of the New Testament we worship God on the first day of the week, the Lord's day. (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:1, 2; Rev. 1:1.)

We are not wrong in fearing God and working righteousness. Peter said he that fears God and works righteousness is acceptable to God (Acts 10:34.) The unrighteousness shall not inherit the kingdom of heaven. (1 Cor. 6:9.) Neither are we wrong in abiding in the doctrine of Christ. "Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God." (2 John 9.) It is not the doctrine of this church or that church, it is the doctrine of the Lord. And the Lord does not give a different doctrine to each denomination, but He gave one doctrine. We are not wrong in being holy, for "without holiness no man shall see the Lord." (Heb. 12:14.) We are not ashamed of the gospel. Paul said, "I am not ashamed of the gospel."

(Rom. 1:16.) We, like the apostles, also contend for the faith, the one faith, once delivered to the saints. (Jude 3; Eph. 4:5; Gal. 1:23.) We are not wrong in baptizing people for the remission of sins. Peter said, "Repent, and be baptized . . . for the remission of sins." (Acts 2:38.) Jesus said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." (Mk. 16:16.)

Furthermore, we are right in the name we wear. The disciples were called Christians. (Acts 11:26.) There is salvation only in the name of Christ. (Acts 4:11, 12.) We are to glorify God in the name Christian. (1 Pet. 4:14-16.) We are right in our plea for unity among professed Christians. "How good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" (Ps. 133:1.) Division among God's people is condemned. (1 Cor. 1:10.) And in all that we do we follow God's word. This cannot be wrong.

Men ought not be looking for a church that pleases them; they should seek to know God's word, and do it, and then the Lord will add them to His church, the right church. (Acts 2:47.)

The Wise Preacher

Solomon, the wise man of Israel, said in Ecclesiastes 12:9, 10, "The Preacher was wise, he still taught the people knowledge; yea, he pondered, and sought out, and set in order many proverbs. The Preacher sought to find out acceptable words, and that which was written uprightly, even words of truth." The apostle Paul told young Timothy what could make him wise. He reminded him that from a child he had known the holy Scriptures which were able to make him wise unto salvation. (2 Tim. 3:15.)

The Scriptures will also make the preacher wise today. But how do they make us wise unto salvation? By letting the Bible stay in the library and never study it? No. Use it only to keep important papers and recipes? No. Well just how does one get wise? Paul said, "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (2 Tim. 2:15.)

Many times we meet denominational preachers who claim they have been studying the Scriptures since they were children. But they do not know how to rightly divide the word of God. A man like this is no better off than was the eunuch, who needed someone to guide him. (Acts 8:31.) The unwise preacher seldom studies the Bible, and when the Lord's day comes he has no

message from God's word for the people. Denominational preachers are not wise because they believe there are many churches, and a man may join the one he likes best. They apparently do not know that Christ built only one church. (Matt. 16:18.) And if a man builds one he labors in vain. (Ps. 127:1.)

Baptist preachers are not wise because they teach that Christ built the Baptist Church. They could not find the Scripture to prove it if their life depended upon it. They cannot even read about a Baptist Church or Baptist Churches in the Bible. But they can read about the churches of Christ in the New Testament. (Rom. 16:16.) Some Baptists claim that John the Baptist built their church and some claim that Christ built it. Some claim that Christ built the church in Galilee. But the prophet said, "Behold I lay in Zion a chief corner stone, elect, precious." (1 Pet. 2:6; Isa. 28:16.) If the foundation was laid in Zion and the church was built in Galilee, when did the house in Galilee and the foundation in Jerusalem get together? Jesus said that a house divided against itself cannot stand.

The Baptist preacher is not wise because he teaches that baptism is not essential to salvation, but that it is essential to obedience. But obedience is essential to salvation, and since baptism is essential to obedience, baptism is also essential to salvation. Jesus is the author of salvation to those who obey Him. (Heb. 5:8, 9.) Paul said that those who refused to obey the gospel would be lost. (2 Thess. 1:7-9.) Let us study God's word and be wise and preach the truth to the people.

Are We Saved by Faith Only?

In his letter to the Thessalonians Paul said, "And then shall be revealed the lawless one, whom the Lord Jesus shall slay with the breath of his mouth, and bring to naught by the manifestation of his coming; even he, whose coming is according to the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceit of unrighteousness for them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God sendeth them a working of error, that they should believe a lie: that they all might be judged who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness." (2 Thess. 2:8-11.)

From this statement we learn that people are often deluded in believing a lie and caused to reject the truth. We also learn that those who reject the truth and believe a lie will not be saved.

Therefore it behooves us to learn and obey the truth. Jesus said in His prayer to God. "Sanctify them in the truth: thy word is truth." (John 17:17.) Again He said, "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." (John 8:32.) Only the truth will make us free. We cannot be saved by believing a lie thinking it is the truth.

In this article I ask, Is it true that men are saved by faith only? I know preachers preach the doctrine of faith only, but does the Bible teach it? No, the Bible does not teach that a man is saved by faith only. The Bible teaches that a man is saved by a number of things, but not by any one only. We are saved by the love of God (John 3:16), by Christ (Matt. 1:21), by grace (Eph. 2:8), by baptism (1 Pet. 3:21), by the word (Jas. 1:21), by works (Jas. 2:24), by our faithfulness (Rev. 2:10), as well as by faith. But we are not saved by any one of these alone. We live by eating, by sleeping, by exercising, by breathing, but we do not live by any of these alone. Jesus said, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." (Matt. 4:4.) Therefore we must conclude that a man is not saved by faith only. "Ye see that by works a man is justified, and not only by faith For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, even so faith apart from works is dead." (Jas. 2:24,26.) To believe otherwise is to believe a lie.

The Rejected Christ

Through the wise providence and foreknowledge of God, the prophet Isaiah was permitted to see down through the ages and make a statement concerning our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He said, "He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not." (Isa. 53:3.) Isaiah foretells how Jesus would be rejected by the people. And in John 1:11, 12, we read, "He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believed on his name."

Not only did the Jews despise and reject Christ, but many people today are rejecting Him. When people reject the name of Christ and wear human names, they are rejecting Christ. To wear the name Baptist, Methodist, Roman Catholic, Presbyterian, and such like is to dishonor Christ. There is no "salvation

in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." (Acts 4:12.)

Men also reject Christ when they become members of a church besides the one Jesus built on the rock. (Matt. 16:18.) In His church we glorify God. (Eph. 3:21.) Any man who worships God according to the doctrines of men worships God in vain. (Matt. 15:8.) He rejects Christ by rejecting the Lord's teaching. Jesus said such draw nigh to Him with their mouth and honor Him with their lips, but their heart is far from Him.

When a man refuses to accept the word of God, he rejects Christ. In John 12:48 we read, "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day." John said, "Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son." (2 John 9.) So when men reject the teaching of Christ, they also reject Him.

God's Temple

In writing to the church at Corinth, Paul had this to say, "What! know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's." (1 Cor. 6:19, 20.) This letter was written to people who had turned their backs on the world and had accepted the Lord Jesus through gospel obedience. They were Christians, members of the Lord's church. Paul says, "Ye are not your own." Even our bodies belong to the Lord. He has bought us with His blood. We are therefore His servants, body, soul, and mind. Therefore we should use our bodies to glorify God.

Whenever a Christian abuses or defiles his body, he is dishonoring the temple wherein dwells the spirit of God. Paul said, "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are." (1 Cor. 3:16, 17.) So to keep from being destroyed we must not defile our bodies, for we are the temple of God.

The denominational world is divided about sin. Some say that the soul sins, and not the body. Others say that the body sins, and not the soul. But the Bible answers the problem in plain

and simple terms. The prophet Ezekiel said, "The soul that sinneth, it shall die." (Ezek. 18:4.) And Paul said, "Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof." (Rom. 6:12.) He also said that those who do the works of the flesh, adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wraths, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revelings, and such like, "shall not inherit the kingdom of God." (Gal. 5:19-21.) So we learn that a man's soul sins, and he sins in the body. That is why Paul said, "I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Thess. 5:23.)

There are some brethren who use tobacco and yet claim that they are maintaining a holy and clean temple for the Lord. We are told to present our "bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." (Rom. 12:1.) I cannot see to save my life how brethren can quote that verse and justify themselves in their use of tobacco, drinking beer, and partaking of other harmful things. Any doctor that speaks forth the words of truth will tell you that smoking does more harm than good to the body. If you do not believe me, ask one. Jesus said the sick need a physician. The tobacco companies themselves admit that tobacco is harmful. When they advertise their products, each tries to outdo the other in their claims that their products won't hurt you as much as others will. Is not this an admission that it is harmful?

Christians should keep their bodies clean. It is the house the spirit lives in. God will hold us responsible if we abuse our bodies. We should therefore be careful to keep our bodies clean as well as our hearts pure.

The Conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus

Many people do not understand the statement of Jesus in John 3:5. It doubtless means that a man must believe in his heart and be baptized in order to enter the kingdom. Let us notice some statements concerning water baptism.

John baptized near Salim because there was *much water*. (John 3:23.) Baptism is a burial in water. (Col. 2:12.) In baptism we are buried with Him. (Rom. 6:4.) "He saved us, through the washing of regeneration" (Tit. 3:5), which is water baptism. Baptism saves us. (1 Pet. 3:20, 21.) The eunuch saw the water and wanted to be baptized. (Acts 8:36-40.) Water

was not forbidden when Cornelius was baptized. (Acts 10:47.) God confessed Jesus to be His Son when He was baptized. (Matt. 3:13-17.)

Let us consider what the Scriptures teach concerning the Spirit and the word. Jesus said: "The words that I have spoken unto you are Spirit, and are life." (John 6:63.) The word is the sword of the Spirit. (Eph. 6:17). The apostles preached as the Holy Spirit guided them. (1 Pet. 1:12.) The word is the seed of the kingdom. (Lk. 8:11.) We are begotten by the word. (Jas. 1:18.) It purifies our hearts. (1 Pet. 1:22; John 15:4.) We are sanctified by the word. (John 17:17.) It is living and active. (Heb. 4:12.) Since the Holy Spirit is the author of the word, whatever is said to be done by the word is also done by the Spirit. The Spirit works through the word. When a man is made to believe by the word, or convicted of his sins by the word, he is made a believer and convicted of his sins by the Spirit.

When, therefore, a man obeys the truth, the word of God, he becomes a Christian. He obeys by hearing the word (Rom. 10:17), by believing (Acts 15:7; Heb. 11:6), by repenting of his sins (Lk. 13:3; 2 Pet. 3:9), by confessing Jesus (Matt. 10:32; Rom. 10:10), and by being baptized. (Acts 2:38; Gal. 3:26, 27; John 3:5.)

Christ Died for All

In James 2:9 we read, "But if ye have respect of persons, ye commit sin, being convicted by the law as transgressors." Sin is sin regardless of who commits it. Peter said, "God is no respecter of persons: but in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness is acceptable to him." (Acts 10:34, 35.) Some people are deceived in believing they can mistreat and abuse one nationality of people and be justified by being twice as good to another people. But the prophet let us know that this is not true. "But when the righteous turneth away from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity, and doeth according to all the abominations that the wicked man doeth, shall he live? None of his righteous deeds that he hath done shall be remembered: in his trespass that he hath transgressed, and in his sin that he hath sinned, in them shall he die." (Ezek. 18:24.)

When our Lord was on the earth there was prejudice on the part of the Jews toward the Samaritans. "For the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans." (John 4:9.) But Jesus took time

to speak to the Samaritan woman at the well and the good Samaritan took time to help the man who had been robbed. The purpose of the Lord's death was to break the middle wall of partition, "that he might create in himself of the two one new man, so making peace." (Eph. 2:15.) God did not send one saviour for the Jews and another for the Gentiles. Christ did not build one church for the Jews and another for the Gentiles. But the gospel is for all nations, and the church is open to all men. Men who profess Christianity should stop and remember that God is concerned about every soul regardless of the color of his skin or his nationality. "Man looketh on the outward appearance, but Jehovah looketh on the heart." (1 Sam. 16:7.) Paul said, "I am debtor both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish." (Rom. 1:14.) The apostles were charged to preach the gospel to all men.

Christian men should never hate anyone. Jesus said, "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God." (Matt. 5:8.) "Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him." (1 John 3:15.) Many disciples of Christ have become guilty of respecting persons. But whenever we see a human being, regardless of his nationality, his poverty or his riches or even his sins, we should remember that Christ died for him and wants him saved. He carried the cross for all men. He endured the pain of the crown of thorns and the mockery of His enemies for every creature under heaven. He gave the world-wide commission to His apostles, saying, "Go . . . preach the gospel to every creature."

'What Love Can Do'

There is a popular song used by most every religious group in the country titled, "What Love Can Do." I have often wondered if those who sing this song really know what love can do. I wonder if they really know *the power of love*.

Love can make a man work for the woman he loves. "Jacob served seven years for Rachel; and they seemed unto him but a few days." (Gen. 29:20.) Christians ought to serve the Lord all the days of their lives and when it comes their time to go the way of all the earth, their years of labor, trials, sufferings and tribulations ought to seem unto them but a few days because of their love for Christ. Love can make us keep God's word. John said, "Jesus answered and said unto him. If a man love me, he

will keep my word." (John 14:23.) Love will make us keep God's commandments. "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments." (1 John 5:3.)

God commands us to assemble on Lord's day. (Heb. 10:25.) He commands us to sing (1 Cor. 14:15), to pray (1 Tim. 2:8), and to lay by in store. (1 Cor. 16:1,2.) And those who love the Lord do these things. Solomon said to fear God and keep His commandments is the whole duty of man. (Eccles. 12:13, 14.)

Thousands of men and women believe in God and the Lord Jesus Christ, but they have not obeyed the gospel and are not Christians. Not because they do not believe in the Lord, but because they do not love the Lord. *Love and obedience are inseparable.*

When a member of the church grows careless in his service to the Lord and becomes negligent in attending the worship, it is not as a rule because his faith is destroyed, but he has left his first love. (Rev. 2:3.)

Love can make the world take notice. Jesus said, "A new commandment I give unto you. That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." (John 13:34, 35.) Brethren, when all men see us love one another as we ought to love one another, and really prove that in deed and in truth, they will be more impressed with the gospel we preach. John said, "We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death. Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him. Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren." (1 John 3:14.) Jesus said, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13.)

Love builds orphan homes, strong churches, hospitals, homes for old folks and Christian homes. Love opens the hearts of men and turns the covetous heart into a generous heart. John said, "Whoso hath this world's goods, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?" (1 John 3:17.) Jesus said, "Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away." (Matt. 5:42.)

The love of Christ in our hearts will make us turn our backs on the world. (1 John 2:15.) The world may wonder why we are no longer ruled by the things of the world. Little do they know that we have accepted something far greater. Love caused God to give His Son to die for us. (John 3:16.) Love will make a man love everybody, even his enemies. Love for the truth will make a man become a member of the Lord's church. It will make us hate every false way. Love is the noblest motive that moves a man to serve God. Without love we are nothing.

Enemies of the Cross

In Paul's letter to the church at Philippi he wrote about some men who were enemies of the cross. He said, "Some indeed preach Christ even of envy and strife; and some also of good will: the one do it of love, knowing that I am set for the defence of the gospel; but the other proclaim Christ of faction, not sincerely, thinking to raise up affliction for me in my bonds." (Phil. 1:15-17.) In that same letter he also spoke of some who were "enemies of the cross of Christ: whose end is perdition, whose god is the belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things." (Phil. 3:18, 19.) In his letter to the church at Corinth he also branded false teachers in the church. "For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, fashioning themselves into apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for even Satan fashioneth himself into an angel of light. It is no great thing therefore if his ministers also fashion themselves as ministers of righteousness, whose end shall be according to their work." (2 Cor. 11:13-15.) The apostle John also gave a warning against false teachers. He said, "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but prove the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets are gone out into the world." (1 John 4:1.) Now all such teachers were enemies of the cross of Christ.

Today, as in the days of the apostles, the church must still contend with enemies of the cross of Christ. Any man who preaches error makes void the word of God and causes men to think they have come to the benefits of the cross when they have not. A person is either a friend of Christ or an enemy. Jesus said, "Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you." (John 15:14.) Again He said, "No man can serve two masters." (Matt. 6:24.)

Let us note some of the enemies of the cross among us today. Some tell us that all a man needs, is to be sincere and honest in

what he does. It does not make so much difference with them as to what a man does, just so he is sincere. But the Bible teaches otherwise. Joshua said, "Now therefore fear the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in truth." (Josh. 24:14.) Jesus said, "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." (John 4:24.) He also said, "Thy word is truth." (John 17:17.) Now to worship God *in spirit* we must worship Him sincerely, from the heart, and to worship God *in truth* means to worship God according to the truth, or *as the truth authorizes*. Therefore simply being sincere in what we are doing is not enough. We must be sincere, and we must also do what God's word authorizes. Jesus said, "In vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." (Matt. 15:9.) The man who teaches that it makes no difference what we do, just so we are sincere, is an enemy of the cross of Christ.

Men often teach that there is nothing in a name. But God said, "If my people, who are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin." (2 Chron. 7:14.) He did not promise to hear people who do not wear His name. Again we read, "In every place where I record my name I will come unto thee and I will bless thee." (Ex. 20:24.) If there is nothing in a name why did the Lord not come where the devil's name was recorded? In Paul's letter to Philippi he said, "Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name." He was talking about Christ. If there is nothing in a name how could His name be above every name? Peter said, "Neither is there any other name under heaven, that is given among men, wherein we must be saved." (Acts 4:12.) Any man who teaches that there is nothing in a name, dishonors the name of Christ and is an enemy of the cross of Christ.

Some men teach that a man is saved before he is baptized. But Jesus said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." (Mk. 16:16.) Language could not be plainer than these words of the Lord, yet men preach, "He that believes is saved and is baptized because he is saved." They are enemies of the cross of Christ.

Enemies of the cross also teach men that they do not need to be a member of the Lord's church, but they may join denominations. Denominations are churches that men have built, but the church of the Lord was built by Him. (Matt. 16:18.) They

teach that a man is saved when he believes and then joins a church of his choice. But the Bible teaches that the same thing that makes a man a Christian also makes him a member of the Lord's church. When one is born into his father's family he becomes a member of that family. He does not later have to join it. When one is "born again" (John 3:5) he becomes a child of God, a member of God's family, the church (1 Tim. 3:14, 15) at the same time. Those who teach otherwise are enemies of the cross of Christ.

'It Is Written'

(No. 1)

When the devil tempted the Lord in the wilderness, each time Jesus answered, "It is written." John said, "Many other signs therefore did Jesus in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book: but these are written, that ye may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye may have life in his name." (John 20:30, 31.)

Most of the religious controversy existing in the world today is not over what "is written," but over what is *not written*. For example, men will readily meet each other in public debate upon the subject of infant baptism. They then begin to argue each other down that the Scriptures do or do not teach infant baptism, and much needless condemning of each other is done and assertions are made. Now friends, all this is needless. All that is necessary is to have the man who practices infant baptism produce the verse where "it is written." But the man isn't living that can produce infant baptism from the word of God. He cannot find where it is written. Out of the 31,173 verses in the Bible there is not one verse that teaches infant baptism. Out of the 1,189 chapters in the Bible there is not one that treats upon the subject of infant baptism. *It is not written*. But we are not interested in what is not written, we serve God by what "is written."

The Bible does teach us that men and women were baptized. "When they believed Philip preaching good tidings concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women." (Acts 8:12.) We can also find where "it is written" that believers were baptized. "And many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized." (Acts 18:8.) Jesus said, "He that believeth and is baptized

shall be saved." (Mk. 16:16.) This is written and this only is correct. It is not written that it is acceptable in the sight of God to baptize a baby that cannot believe.

There are also men who will have the audacity and monumental gall to meet men in public debate and take the position that it is scriptural to sprinkle for baptism. Well, if it is scriptural the practice should be found in the Scriptures. If "it is written" by holy men who were guided by the Holy Spirit we should be able to read it in the Bible. But sprinkling for baptism is not written in the Bible. But the Bible teaches that we are buried with Christ in baptism that we might arise to walk in newness of life. (Rom. 6:3, 4.) Why do men teach things that are not written?

Some men are foolish enough to take the position that there is no God. That man was not created but man has reached his present stage by evolution. Yet the Bible plainly states, "it is written," that God existed in the beginning. "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." (Gen. 1:1.) "And God said, Let us make man in our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the heavens, and over the cattle, and over all the earth." (Gen. 1:26.) We believe this because "it is written." May the time soon come when men will be satisfied to follow God's word and His word only. Be satisfied with what "is written" and stop trying to get to heaven by doing things that are not written.

'It Is Written'

(No. 2)

When the Lord Jesus Christ was tempted by the devil in the wilderness, He met each temptation with the words, "It is written." (Matt. 4:1-11.) The word of God is "the sword of the Spirit" (Eph. 6:17), it is "living and active, and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing even to the dividing of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and quick to discern the thoughts and intents of the heart." (Heb. 4:12.) Every Christian should be able to wield the "sword of the Spirit" which is the word of God, and answer every man today with what is written. We should be afraid to add to or to take from God's word. When God speaks concerning a matter we should believe Him and obey Him. Likewise we should respect the silence of God's word. That is, when God has not spoken concerning a matter we should not make laws for ourselves.

John concluded the last chapter in the Bible by saying, "If any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book." (Rev. 22:19.) God warned Israel, "Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish from it." (Deut. 4:2.)

Let me call your attention to some things that are written. In Genesis 1:1 "it is written" "God created the heavens and the earth." And God created man. (Gen. 2:7.) It is written in this book that man became wicked in the sight of God and because of this God destroyed the old wicked world with a flood. (Gen. 6:5; 2 Pet. 2:5.) It is also written in the book that "the day of the Lord will come as a thief; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall be dissolved with fervent heat, and the earth and the works that are therein shall be burned up." (2 Pet. 3:10.) Just as the people would not listen to Noah when he warned them of the flood and called upon them to repent, so people today will not hear the gospel preacher when he warns of the end of the world and calls upon them to repent. But "it is written" in the book and we cannot change it, even if we want to.

God told Noah to build an ark of gopher wood, to put one window in it and one door. Did Noah put two windows and two doors and did he use some pine, oak and cedar with the gopher wood? The answer is, no. It is written, "Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he." (Gen. 6:22) And that is the way God wants us to respect His word today.

Someone might say, God did not say, "Thou shalt not use pine, oak or cedar." And they think because God did not say "thou shalt not" use this or that, that it would have been no sin for Noah to use some other kind. This is the way some people argue about instrumental music in the Christians' worship. They say, God did not say, "Thou shalt not use an organ." When God told Noah what to use, that excluded everything else. If God had said "use wood," Noah could have used any kind of wood and several kinds of wood. But God did not say that; He named the kind. He said "gopher wood" and that excluded every other kind. When God told Abraham to offer Isaac as a sacrifice on the altar, Abraham didn't take Ishmael also. When God told Israel to "kill a lamb" for the passover feast, they

didn't kill a pig also. So when God tells us to "sing" we understand He intends for us to *sing*. If He had said "make music" we could sing and play. But God named the kind of music for worship, just as He named the kind of wood for Noah to use in the ark. Noah did as God had spoken, and we must do as God has written. We should "fear God and keep his commandments." (Eccles. 12:13.) "Blessed are they that do his commandments." (Rev. 22:14.)

It is written, "Except one be born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." (John 3:5.) It is written, "For as many of you as were baptized into Christ did put on Christ." (Gal. 3:27.) It is written, "Salvation . . . is in Christ Jesus." (2 Tim. 2:10.) It is written that Christ built the church (Matt. 16:18), that He purchased it with His blood (Acts 20:28), that He is the head. (Eph. 1:22.) It is not written that Peter was the head of the church, that a man can be saved out of Christ, or saved without obeying the Lord in baptism. Finally, it is written that Christ will come again some day, and because the word of God tells us that He will come again, we believe it. Because we believe it we urge all men everywhere to believe and obey the things that are written in the book.

One Greater Than Solomon

When Jesus came on the scene of action there had been many great men before Him. Men that had done great works and miracles. Men of renown, such as Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David and Samuel, who subdued kingdoms, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire and escaped the edge of the sword. Men that the world was not worthy of. But when Jesus came He made a statement showing that He was greater than Solomon. He said, "Behold a greater than Solomon is here." (Matt. 12:42.) Solomon was made king of Israel by David, but Jesus was made king of the Jews by the Most High God. He was crowned King of kings and Lord of lords.

Solomon was a rich man. The queen of Sheba gave him one hundred twenty talents of gold, spices and precious stones. (1 Kings 10:10.) King Hiram gave him gold and precious spices. But he could not take it with him when he died. Paul said, "We brought nothing into the world," and it is certain we can carry nothing out. (1 Tim. 6:7.) But the riches of Jesus are imperishable. Paul spoke of the unsearchable riches of Christ.

Solomon was wise. God asked him what he wanted and he asked for an understanding heart. The Scriptures teach, if a man wants wisdom let him ask of God. (Jas. 1:5.) Solomon displayed his wisdom when he proved which was the real mother of a baby, by ordering the baby to be divided between the two women. Jesus displayed His wisdom concerning the woman taken in adultery by simply commanding the man without fault to cast the first stone to destroy her.

Solomon had seven hundred wives and three hundred concubines, and they turned his heart from God. (Neh. 13:26, 27.) Christ had only one wife, the church. (Rev. 19:7; Col. 1:18.) Solomon built the temple for Jewish worship. Christ built the church for all nations. (Matt. 16:18; Dan. 7:13, 14.) Solomon had a temporal kingdom. Christ has an everlasting kingdom. (Isa. 9:6; Dan. 2:44.) In glory Solomon was not superior to a lily, because Jesus said, "Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these." Christ is spoken of as the lily of the valley. Solomon could not be resurrected after his death, but Jesus said, "I am the resurrection." (John 11:25.) After death Solomon's body saw corruption, but the body of Christ did not see corruption. (Acts 2:27.) Solomon was not called the word of God. Christ was the Word. (John 1:1; Rev. 19:13.) Solomon did not die for the sins of the world. Christ did. (Rom. 5:8; John 19:34; Eph. 5:25; Acts 20:28.) "Behold, a greater than Solomon is here."

I have read in the Scriptures of the great faith of Abraham, the meekness of Moses, the patience of Job, the strength of Samson, the riches of the queen of Sheba, and I have been amazed at Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who walked out of the fiery furnace unsinged. But nowhere in the Scriptures can I find a man that can excel Jesus Christ. Paul talked of His power, "far above all rule, and authority, and power, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come." (Eph. 1:21.)

This same Jesus that anointed a man's eyes with clay and gave him sight, can meet one in baptism and wash away his sins. This Jesus that turned water into wine can meet a man in baptism and wash away his sins. This same Jesus was on the cross from the sixth hour to the ninth hour and the sun refused to give its light and the world was dark. A Roman soldier pierced His side with a spear and out came water and blood. He was laid in the heart of the earth in Joseph's new tomb, but on the third day

the Heavenly Father dispatched angels from heaven to roll away the stone and to raise my Lord and yours. He came forth a glorious, victorious, conquering Saviour, the conqueror of death, hell and the grave. Today He says, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest . . . For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." Won't you come unto Him?

The Methodist Discipline

We invite your attention to a comparison of a statement found in the Methodist Discipline and the Bible. The Methodist Discipline says, "Wherefore that we are justified by faith only is a most wholesome doctrine, and very full of comfort." The Methodist Discipline is trying to make people believe that a man is saved by merely believing in Jesus Christ, without any further obedience. This is commonly called the doctrine of *faith only*.

We are going to prove by the Bible that the Methodist Discipline is wrong. The religion of Christ is a *doing* religion. We are taught to *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus. (Col. 3:17.) Solomon said, "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might." (Eccles. 9:10.)

To be faithful to God we must worship God. And in order to worship God we must do something. According to John 4:24 we must worship God in spirit and truth. Therefore a man cannot do what he thinks to be right, nor what his parents thought was right, but he must do what God outlined in His work to be right.

There are some Scriptures used by the Methodist Discipline to prove their teaching. In Acts 16:31 Paul said to the jailor, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved." It is wrong to try to make this passage teach "faith only." The jailor was told to believe, but he could not believe until he *heard* the word to believe. Paul tells us that faith comes by hearing God's word. (Rom. 10:17.) Before Paul preached the word as stated in Acts 16:32, it was impossible for the jailor to believe. Without faith it is impossible to please God. (Heb. 11:6.) He that comes to God must believe. And in Hebrews 5:8, 9, we read that Christ is the author of salvation to all them that *obey* Him. In Acts 10:47 Peter commanded baptism and in 1 Peter 3:21 he says it saves us. In Revelation 22:14 we are told that we are blessed when we *do His commandments*.

Paul said we should believe to the saving of the soul. (Heb. 10:39.) He did not say *believe only* and your soul is saved, but he said believe to the saving of the soul. If one is saved the moment he believes, how can he believe to the saving of his soul? In Romans 13:11 Paul said, "Now is our salvation nearer than when we believed." If salvation is obtained the moment one believes, how can Paul's statement be true? Paul preached to save them that believed. (1 Cor. 1:21.) In Acts 2 the people realized that there was more to do after they were made believers. After they believed on the Lord they said, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" Not what shall we feel, smell, taste, tell or see, but what shall we *do*? Peter, guided by the Holy Spirit, told them to repent and be baptized for the remission of their sins. (Acts 2:38.) Some may think they could have been justified by merely saying, "Lord, Lord." But Jesus said, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." (Matt. 7:21.) Again He said, "Why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things that I say?" The rich young ruler knew that there was something for him to do. He said, "Good Master, what thing shall I do?" (Matt. 19:16.) Not what must mama or papa do, but what must he do? Friends, this is as personal as it can be. James says, "To him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin." (Jas. 4:17.) Saul said, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" Jesus told him to go into the city and "it shall be told thee what thou must do." (Acts 9:6.) He did not say, "it will be told thee what you can do if you want to," but what he *must do*. He was told to be baptized, therefore he *must be baptized*. (Acts 22:16.)

James says, "Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves." (Jas. 1:22.) And after becoming Christians we are to *do good* to all men. (Gal. 6:10.) The gospel teaches a man to believe, to repent of his sins, to confess Christ and to be baptized into Christ. (Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38; Rom. 10:10.) And then the Christian is commanded to be faithful unto death. (Rev. 2:10.) It is necessary for a man to *do something* to obey these commands. It is one thing to believe that Christ is God's Son and the Saviour of the world, and another thing to believe what He teaches. "Among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue." (John 12:42.) These people believed on Jesus but they

were not saved. Jesus said if we do not confess Him we will be lost (Matt. 10:32, 33), and they were afraid to confess Jesus, although *they believed* on Him.

The Bible teaches that by our works we show our faith (Jas. 2:18; Mk. 2:5), that by our works we are justified (Jas. 2:24), by our works our faith is made perfect (Jas. 2:22), by works we glorify God (John 15:8), and by our works we shall be judged. (Rev. 20:12; 2 Cor. 5:10.) Finally, the Bible says it is *not by faith only*. "Ye see that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only, . . . For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also." (Jas. 2:24, 26.) Better stay with the Bible and let the Methodist Discipline alone.

The Simplicity of Christ

The apostle Paul in writing to the church at Corinth had this to say, "But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ." (2 Cor. 11:3.) Christ was the simplest man on the earth. His birth was simple. Luke says, "And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn." (Lk. 2:7.) In His youth He had a simple trade. In Matthew 13:55 we read, "Is not this the carpenter's son?" Jesus doubtless worked with Joseph, His father, in the carpenter's business. Jesus also had a simple abode. A certain man said unto Him, "Master, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest. And Jesus saith unto him, The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head." (Matt. 8:19, 20.) He abode sometimes here and sometimes there. Sometimes with the rich (Lk. 19:5), and sometimes with the poor. (Lk. 2:51.)

Our Lord taught the simple truth of God. "He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes." (Matt. 7:29.) The common people heard Him gladly. In selecting men to carry His gospel to the world, Jesus selected simple, plain men. Many were fishermen. He called them to become fishers of men, and on the day of Pentecost Peter cast the gospel net into the sea of men and brought forth a draught of three thousand souls.

When Jesus talked to His disciples about His church He said, "Upon this rock I will build my church." (Matt. 16:18.) This simple, plain statement forever eliminates the difficulty as to what church a man should become a member of. Christ built

only one. If a man refuses to become a member of the Lord's church there is none other for him. The terms of entrance into His church are also simple. No one should have difficulty of understanding them. He must hear the gospel, believe God and His word, repent of his sins, confess his faith in Christ and be baptized into Christ. (Mk. 16:15, 16; Lk. 24:46, 47; Acts 2:38; Phil. 2:10, 11; Gal. 3:26, 27.) And after obeying this simple teaching of the Lord, he should be faithful unto death. (Rev. 2:10; Matt. 24:11-13.) In Revelation 22:12-17 He said, "Behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie . . . And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely."

'And Preached unto Him Jesus'

This statement is found in Acts 8:35. This was said of a gospel preacher and that is what he preached to a sinner seeking forgiveness of sins.

To preach Jesus is not to stand in the pulpit like some denominational preachers, and continue to pronounce the name of Jesus over and over again, but it means to tell lost men of the life, death, burial and resurrection of our blessed Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. It should be impressed upon the minds of people that Christ denied Himself of the riches of the world that we through His poverty might become rich. The sinner should know that God so loved the world that He gave Jesus to die for lost humanity. (John 3:16.) We read in Romans 5:7: "For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

Jesus' life was an obedient life. "Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered." (Heb. 5:8.) So for the sinner to ever meet God's approval he must be obedient too. "To obey is better than sacrifice." (1 Sam. 15:22.)

In preaching Jesus we preach His commandments that men might know what to obey. In Mark 16:15, 16, Jesus commands men to believe and be baptized. For men to think they can enter into heaven without being baptized is to lay aside God's commandments. (Rev. 22:14.) "Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into that city."

Philip must have told the eunuch about water baptism, because in Acts 8:36 the eunuch said, "Here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?" People should be taught that baptism is essential unto salvation. A gospel preacher never did leave his subject until he was taught baptism. Baptism was so important that the jailor was baptized the same hour of the night. (Acts 16:33.)

In preaching Jesus men are taught that God is not willing that any should perish but all should come unto repentance. (2 Pet. 3:9.) We read in Ezekiel 33:11: "As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live." "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon." (Isa. 55:7.)

People must be taught that Jesus' death contained much suffering. Jesus was led from judgment hall to judgment hall. He was spit upon and they buffeted Him with their hands. He was mocked and scourged. They placed a crown of thorns upon His head. "He was opposed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth." (Isa. 53:7.)

Jesus endured all this for the sinner. To accept Jesus is to have access to the Father. "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." (John 14:6.) To be in Jesus Christ is to be complete. "Ye are complete in him." (Col. 2:10.)

As man beholds the many things of nature he should think of Jesus. When he sees the lilies he should think of Jesus, "the lily of the valley." When he sees the roses he should think of Jesus, "the rose of Sharon." When he eats his daily bread he should think of Jesus, "the bread of life." He is the bread that cometh down from heaven. When he drinks water, he should think of Jesus, "the fountain of living water." As man enjoys the comfort

of his big rock mansion he should think of Jesus, "the Rock of Ages."

When the righteous man thinks of death he should think of Jesus. "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me." (Ps. 23:4.) "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" (Ps. 27:1.) "I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth on me, though he were dead, yet shall he live." (John 11:25.)

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord." (1 Cor. 15:58.)

Concerning Salvation

In this sermon we want to outline a small portion of the impossibilities concerning salvation. In my many conversations with denominational preachers I have received different and conflicting statements concerning salvation that would use every page of this book to describe to the public. Some denominational preachers claim that salvation is attributed to faith only, while another that practices infant baptism attributes salvation to baptism only. In these two cases both preachers are wrong, because salvation is not by faith only nor is it by baptism only, but it is obtained through faith and baptism, according to Mark 16:16.

Now for our lesson. It is impossible for man to be saved without Christ. In Luke 2:11, "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." And in Matthew 1:21, "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins." In 2 Timothy 2:10 Paul said, "Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sake, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory." In 1 John 5:11 we read, "And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son."

It is utterly impossible for man to be saved independent of the gospel. "The gospel is the power of God unto salvation." (Rom. 1:16.) In 1 Corinthians 15:1, 2, we read, "Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; by which also ye are saved." In 2 Corinthians 4:3, "But if our gospel

be hid, it is hid to them that are lost." The gospel contains words of truth. In Ephesians 1:13 we read, "in whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation."

It is impossible for a man to be saved outside of the church. Many people are heard to ask the question, "Does a man have to be in the church to be saved?" The answer to that question is, "The saved are already in the church." The Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved." (Acts 2:47.)

When the Lord returns to the earth again the church is the thing He intends to save. "For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the Saviour of the body." (Eph. 5:23.) In saving the body He will save the church, because, "He is head of the body, the church." (Col. 1:18.) Now will anyone be saved out of the body or church? All those that think baptism is not important will never enter the church or body, because, "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body." (1 Cor. 12:13.) Thus an unbaptized person is not in the body or church of Christ.

It is impossible to be saved without the blood of Christ, but one cannot reach the blood of Christ until he is first baptized into the death of Christ, where the blood is found. "Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death." (Rom. 6:4.) And John 19:34 tells us He was dead when the spear was thrust into His side from whence came the blood. In writing to Christians that had been baptized John said, "The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." (1 John 1:7.) But in Acts 22:16 Ananias told Saul to "arise and be baptized, and wash away thy sins." To be cleansed from sins and having your sins washed away amount to the same thing. In Revelation 1:5 John said, "Unto him that loved us and washed us from our sins in his own blood."

It is impossible to obtain salvation without true worship to God. Jesus said, "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." (John 4:24.) There are thousands of people worshipping contrary to the Scriptures. They are trying to get religion, telling experiences, coming to mourners' benches, voting on a candidate before baptism, sprinkling and pouring for baptism, and telling alien sinners to pray for pardon. Many people are seeking salvation in denominationalism. All denominations are man-made. Jesus, in Matthew

15:9, "In vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men."

To try to be saved by the ways invented by man is to try the impossible. Jesus, the precious lamb of God, gave the only way to be saved. The apostles taught men to hear the gospel (Mk. 12:29), believe the gospel (Acts 15:7), repent of every sin (Acts 3:19), confess the name of Christ (Rom. 10:10), and be baptized in order to receive the remission of sins. (Acts 2:38.) This is the only way to obtain salvation from past sins.

Lying Prophets

The thoughts gathered in this article are taken from the statement of the prophet Jeremiah. "Behold, I am against them that prophesy false dreams, saith the Lord, and do tell them, and cause my people to err by their lies, and by their lightness; yet I sent them not, nor commanded them: therefore they shall not profit this people at all, saith the Lord." (Jer. 23:32.)

As we look about us and witness the many religious doctrines that are being taught by men today, we must confess that there are many lying prophets still in existence. They are teaching for their doctrines the commandments of men and are causing many people to err. Their many false doctrines also cause the religious world to be badly divided, which is contrary to the Saviour's prayer. (John 17:21-25.) Paul also warned against such in Romans 6:17, 18, and Colossians 2:22. Men should therefore be careful and not allow lying prophets to lead them into the ditch. Jesus said, "If the blind guide the blind, both shall fall into a pit." That includes the lying prophets and those who follow them.

One false doctrine taught by these lying prophets is that a man is saved by *faith only*. They say that faith only is a wholesome doctrine and full of comfort. But James, guided by the Holy Spirit, did not teach anything of the kind. He said, "Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only. (Jas. 2:24.) Read also James 2:14-26.

Lying prophets also teach that people are saved before they are baptized. Let's let the lying prophet keep silent for a while, and let us accept the words of one who told no lies. Peter said that Jesus did not sin, neither was guile found in His mouth. (1 Pet. 1:22.) And Jesus said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." (Mk. 16:16.) Now notice, "He that believeth [item one] and [coordinating conjunction] is baptized shall be

saved [declarative]." Salvation in this verse is not received until the individual complies with the two items, faith and baptism. On the other hand baptism is a transition, which means that one is transferred from one state into another state. If he was saved before he was baptized, he becomes unsaved after baptism. The Scriptures teach that we are baptized *into* Christ. (Gal. 3:26, 27.) But to baptize a saved man would transfer him out of Christ. Paul, speaking of some who had been baptized, said they had been delivered from the power of darkness and translated into the kingdom of His dear Son. (Col. 1:12, 13.) Read also Acts 2:38; 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21; John 3:5.

The lying prophets also teach that one should be voted on before baptism. His proof text is Acts 1:26, where the apostles cast lots to select one to take the place of Judas, who had fallen by transgression. In the first place, the Lord did the choosing. (Acts 1:24.) Second, this was done after Matthias was baptized, not before he was baptized. He was already a disciple of the Lord. There is no apostolic example for voting on a candidate before baptism. The eunuch had no voting done on him. There wasn't a church there to vote on him.

False prophets also teach that men should "get religion." But religion is not something a man gets, it is something that he does. (Jas. 1:26, 27.) False teachers also say that a man must see God as evidence of pardon. Jesus said, "No man hath seen God at any time." (1 John 4:12.) God told Moses that no man could see His countenance and live. We are reminded of the story of the old man who wanted to get into a church. He told a lie and claimed he had seen God. Upon this he was quickly accepted into that church. Next Sunday he decided to tell the deacons the truth. So he admitted to them that he had told a lie about seeing God. Upon this they turned him out of the church. So when he told a lie they took him in, and when he told the truth they turned him out.

Lying prophets teach people to come to the mourners' bench. There is no apostolic example for calling people to the mourners' bench. It would have taken a long bench to seat that three thousand on Pentecost. Men also teach that one should pray for pardon. But God heareth not sinners. (John 9:31; 1 Pet. 3:12; Isa. 59:1.) There are many other false doctrines that false teachers preach, which we cannot mention now. Men should read the Bible and learn God's will and not allow any false teacher to lead them into error. If a man serves the Lord well, lives faithful

until death (Rev. 2:10), heaven will be his home and there he can see his maker face to face and be happy forevermore.

'Get Right with God'

There is a popular song that is called "Get Right with God." This is also the teaching of the word of God. God wants men to get right with Him and He wants them to do it now, not tomorrow, not next week, not next year, but do it *now*.

If a man has heard false doctrine and obeyed false doctrine he is not right with God. "Whosoever goeth onward and abideth not in the teaching of Christ, hath not God: he that abideth in the teaching, the same hath both the Father and the Son. If any one cometh unto you, and bringeth not this teaching, receive him not into your house, and give him no greeting: for he that giveth him greeting partaketh in his evil works." (2 John 9-11.)

If a man did not believe in Christ as the Scriptures teach, when he thought he became a Christian, he is not right with God. Jesus said, "He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, from within him shall flow rivers of living water." (John 7:38.) The people who call themselves Jehovah's Witnesses believe that Christ came to earth in 1914. This is not true. They may claim that they believe in Christ, but they believe false teaching concerning Him. They do not believe what the Scriptures teach concerning Him. In Revelation 1:7 we read, "Behold, he cometh with the clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they that pierced him: and all the tribes of the earth shall mourn over him." The Jehovah's Witnesses need to get right with God and stop teaching false doctrine about the coming of the Lord.

Every man who did not repent of his sins when he thought he became a Christian will have to get right with God. Peter told Simon to repent of his sin, because "thy heart is not right with God." (Acts 8:21, 22.) God does not promise to forgive a man of his sins when he is baptized unless that man first repents of his sins. Peter said, "Repent ye, and be baptized . . . unto the remission of your sins." (Acts 2:38.)

If a man did not believe in and confess Christ before he was baptized he needs to get right with God. When the eunuch asked to be baptized, Philip answered, "If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." (Acts 8:37.)

The Lord commands men to be baptized and unless a man is baptized in obedience to the will of the Lord his heart is not

right with God. Peter commanded Cornelius to be baptized. (Acts 10:48.) Jesus said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." (Mk. 16:16.) "The Pharisees and the lawyers rejected for themselves the counsel of God, being not baptized of" John. (Lk. 7:30.) "Of how much sorer punishment, think ye, shall he be judged worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant . . . an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?" (Heb. 10:29, 30.) All men everywhere must be baptized to get right with God. All out of God's church must get into God's church to get right with God. The Lord adds the saved to the church. (Acts 2:47.) He adds those whose hearts are right with God. There is not a saved man outside of the Lord's church, for the Lord adds all the saved to the church.

All men in the church who are not living right must get right with God. Peter said when they turn back they are like the dog that returns to his vomit, or the sow that has been washed to wallow in the mud. (2 Pet. 2:20-22.) "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9.) This is how the Christian can get right with God.

Check and Be Sure

Paul said, "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good." (1 Thess. 5:21.) We are living in a world that is highly infested with deceitfulness. So much so that it is not wise to accept any doctrine that is taught without first checking and making sure that it is approved of God. This is indeed an age of investigation. Men have a tendency to be more careful in material things than they are in spiritual affairs. For instance few men will buy a piece of meat unless it is first weighed upon a standard scale. If a butcher claims that he is ever so good at guessing weight, we will not be satisfied until the meat is weighed upon a standard scale. Men will not buy land without it first being measured. If a landowner would try to sell land by using a twelve-inch stick claiming it is a yard long, someone would quickly get a standard yardstick and make comparison.

When men accept church manuals, disciplines, catechisms of religious leaders, they are being deceived more than one buying land without the proper measurements. Men should check these creeds of men and be sure. "Seek ye out of the book of the Lord, and read." (Isa. 34:16.) To accept the book of God is to

reject the creeds of men, because they are in direct opposition to one another. The creeds of men are full of confusion. Therefore God is not the author, because God is not the author of confusion.

Another close check will reveal to us that the church is the body of Christ. (Col. 1:18.) Christ is the head of the body of the church. Just how many bodies the Bible speaks of is how many churches Christ built. Ephesians 4:4 says, "one body." Therefore there is one church. To claim Christ as head of all these religious bodies is to say that Christ is ill-formed. Christ is not the head of two hundred fifty bodies. If Christ had two hundred fifty bodies, Thomas, one of the apostles, would have been told by Christ to thrust his finger into two hundred fifty sides. But Christ had only one physical body and He has only one spiritual body, and the Bible calls that the church. (Eph. 1:22.)

Men who really desire to be saved will check their Bible for the plan of salvation. "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body" (1 Cor. 12:13), and this body is the church. When one is baptized into the body he is baptized into the Lord's church. When one checks John 6:63 he will learn that the word is spirit. The word of God is the seed of the kingdom. (Lk. 8:11.) Seeds produce after their kind. The horse produces the horse. The seed of the kingdom, which is His word, will produce Christians. Methodist doctrine will produce Methodists and Baptist doctrine will produce Baptists, but the word of God, the seed of the kingdom, will make only Christians.

People also need to check their Bible and see if they can find the verse that teaches a man is saved before he is baptized. Someone might say one is saved by faith only and quote Romans 5:1. "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." But Paul also speaks of their baptism in Romans 6:3. "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?" Baptism puts us in Christ and by baptism we come into the benefits of His death. By faith we are baptized into Christ. Both faith and baptism are essential.

The Bible needs to be carefully checked to see whether or not men should get religion. The Bible is the book by which to check all these religious doctrines. James speaks of pure religion as something one does and not something one gets. (Jas. 1:27.) Preachers should check and be sure to whom the word *reverend*

is applied. In Psalm 111:9 we read "holy and reverend is his name." This applies to God and not to preachers. Let us check and be sure that we do not use the name of the Lord in vain.

To become a child of God one must hear the word (Rom. 10:17), believe the word (Heb. 11:6), repent of all sins (Lk. 13:3), confess the Lord Jesus with the mouth (Rom. 10:10), and be baptized for the remission of sins. (Acts 2:38.) He is then an heir of God and a joint heir with Jesus Christ. He is a Christian. He has come the way Christ designated. (John 14:6.) If you have never come that way will you not do so now and cause the angels to rejoice?

Concerning the Sabbath Day

Should Christians keep the sabbath day as did the Jews under the law of Moses? God said, when He gave the law at Mt. Sinai, "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy." (Ex. 20:8.) From this we learn that the sabbath was a part of the law given at that time. In John 1:17 we read, "The law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ." And in Exodus 20:2 we read, "I am the Lord thy God, who have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage." Again He said, "It is a sign between me and the children of Israel for ever." (Ex. 31:17.) "And thou shalt remember that thou wast a servant in the land of Egypt, and Jehovah thy God brought thee out thence by a mighty hand and by an outstretched arm: therefore Jehovah thy God commanded thee to keep the sabbath day." (Deut. 5:15.) From these Scriptures we learn that the command to keep the sabbath day was given to Israel, that it was a sign between them and God, and that they were to keep it to remember that God had brought them out of the land of bondage. Furthermore, Moses said, "Jehovah our God made a covenant with us in Horeb. Jehovah made not his covenant with our fathers, but with us, even us, who are all of us here alive this day." This covenant included the ten commandments of which the command to keep the sabbath was one. "And he declared unto you his covenant, which he commanded you to perform, even the ten commandments; and he wrote them upon two tables of stone." (Deut. 4:13.) From this we learn that God did not give this law to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Noah, Joseph and their fathers that lived before them. But He gave it to the people Moses was leading through the wilderness to the promised land. These were the people He led through the Red

Sea, that He fed with Manna, that were bitten by the fiery serpents. Neither has God given this law to any other nation since then.

Now the prophet Jeremiah predicted the time would come when God would take away that old covenant made at Mt. Sinai and give His people a *new covenant*. (Jer. 31:31.) And in Hebrews 8:8-13, the writer of the Hebrew letter uses this statement from Jeremiah to prove that this had been done when the gospel was preached by the apostles and when Christ nailed the old covenant to the cross. (Col. 2:14.) Now the law to keep the sabbath day was one of the ten commandments and it was also taken out of the way.

There are three ages named in the Bible. First the Patriarchal age, covering a period of about twenty-five hundred years from Adam to Mt. Sinai, second, the Mosaic age, covering a period of about fifteen hundred years from Mt. Sinai to the cross of Christ, and third the Christian age that began with Pentecost and will continue to the end of time. What God commanded people to do in one age is not necessarily binding on people of another age. Slavery was legally practiced in years gone by but today the law will not allow it in our country. Likewise in regards to the sabbath day. It was legally practiced under the Mosaic age, but it is not binding on Christians in the Christian age any more than is circumcision, the passover feast and the tabernacle services.

It should be remembered that under the old covenant God made laws against adultery, stealing, etc., and because He took the old law away does not mean that there is no law against such things today. For the law of Christ forbids these things also, but Christ did not make a law concerning the sabbath day for Christians.

Under the old covenant there was penalty for violating the law. A man was found picking up sticks on the sabbath day and God commanded them to stone the man to death because he broke the sabbath. (Num. 15:32-36.) Now if the sabbath law is still binding, is not the penalty also binding? Who changed the penalty? Sometimes we are asked, Who changed the sabbath? No one changed it, but God took it out of the way, both the law and the penalty.

What good is a law without a penalty? It would be no use to have red lights in our cities if there were not penalties for those who ran the red lights. Why have a speed limit of sixty miles

per hour if there is no penalty for those who drive eighty and ninety miles an hour? Where there is a law there must be a penalty, and the penalty for breaking the sabbath day was death, they were stoned to death. If therefore the sabbath law is binding on Christians today, the penalty is also.

Read the following Scriptures. "For ye are not under the law, but under grace." (Rom. 6:14.) "Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith it to them who are under the law . . . Therefore by the deed of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight." (Rom. 3:20.) "For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law." (Gal. 5:3.) "But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident: for, The just shall live by faith." (Gal. 3:11.) "Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace." (Gal. 5:4.)

Why I Love the Bible

I love everything about the Bible from a general point of view. I love the 3,566,480 letters, 773,746 words, 31,102 verses, 1,189 chapters and sixty-six books. I love the Bible because I can stand on any part of God's green earth and hold in my hand Scriptures inspired of God. Paul said, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God." (2 Tim. 3:16.) I can hold in my hand a book that cannot fail. The Lord said that heaven and earth shall pass away but God's word shall never pass away.

I love the Bible because it tells me plainly of the creation of the universe. "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." (Gen. 1:1.) It tells of the appearance of the first man on the earth. "And Jehovah God formed man of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." (Gen. 2:7.) I love the Bible because it does not hide from the wages of sin. "The wages of sin is death." (Rom. 6:23.) "And sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death." (Jas. 1:15.)

The Bible gives to man all things that pertain to life and godliness. (2 Pet. 1:3.) It teaches me that God's word will judge me in the last day. (John 12:48.) I love the Bible for what it does for me. Paul says it will make one wise unto salvation. (2 Tim. 3:15.) It will sanctify (John 17:17), free one from sin (John 8:32), and convert the soul. (Ps. 19:7.)

I love the Bible because it is God's only guide to man to direct his feet in the right way. David said, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet." (Ps. 119:105.) Men do not need to be ruled by manuals, creeds of men or such like, but the word of God is our guide and every man will have to accept God's word or be lost.

I love the Bible because in it I can read words spoken by holy men of God who were moved by the Holy Spirit. I can read in it how the faithful old prophets hazarded their lives in order to proclaim God's word to the people. I can read of David and he exalted the word saying, "How sweet are thy words unto my tast! Yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth!" (Ps. 119:103.)

I love the Bible because it teaches the simple plan of salvation to men. It teaches lost men to believe in God and the Lord Jesus (Mk. 12:29), believe the gospel (Acts 15:7), repent of their sins (Acts 3:19), confess Christ to be the Son of God (Matt. 10:32), and be baptized in water for the remission of their sins. (Acts 2:38.) He is then born again. (John 3:5; 1 Pet. 1:22, 23.) He is then a member of the church of Christ, a child in the family of God. (1 Cor. 12:13; Col. 1:18; 1 Tim. 3:14, 15.) Then the Bible teaches him how to serve God faithfully unto the end and promises to him a home in heaven where God dwells.

Fire Protection

Nature has given to every species of living creatures the instinct to protect itself, its life, and its body, to avoid those things which seem harmful, to procure everything necessary for living—food, shelter, and things of like nature.

God has blessed man, in that man is above the beast of the field. He not only knows that he must provide protection for himself, but goes about providing that protection before the danger presents itself.

If a man should build a beautiful home, the first thing he does after it is completed is to have it properly insured against loss by fire. He is spoken of by his friends as a smart man because he has fire protection on his home.

But friend, there is a fire protection that every man should obtain before he leaves this world. This fire protection must be obtained by every living soul regardless of race, creed or color. He must obtain this protection because it is for the benefit of his poor miserable soul. Jesus said: "What is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" (Matt. 16:26.) This protection is to keep his soul from going to the

place where the worm dieth not and the fire is not quenched. That everlasting place that burneth with fire and brimstone, that place where the false prophets will be tormented night and day forever and ever. The place will cause one to weep and gnash his teeth.

This fire protection is not expensive in the least, it is obtainable by the poor as well as the rich. It is obtainable by the man in his hut, as well as the king on his throne.

No doubt you are saying in your mind that this is an amazing offer. Yes, friends, this offer is amazingly cheap, it costs only gospel obedience on the part of those that desire fire protection against hell's misery.

Gospel obedience consists of (1) hearing the gospel. (Mk. 12:29.) The first of all commandments is to hear the Lord your God. He must also believe in Christ with all of his heart. Jesus said: "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me." (John 14:1.) In John 8:24 He said: "Except ye believe that I am he, ye shall die in your sins." (2) He must repent of all of his sins. God is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. (3) He is commanded to confess the name of Christ. Jesus said: "Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven." (Matt. 10:32.) (4) He must be baptized. In Mark 16:16 Jesus said: "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." After obeying these commandments his name is written in the Lamb's book of life, and if he adds to his faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, love and remains faithful until death, when cometh the final consummation of all things, and when wicked men will burn in the lake of fire he will be glad he obtained fire protection.

The Words of Eternal Life

Because so many disciples of Christ are giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of the devil and seeing that they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh and put Him to an open shame, this lesson is being presented that by the two-edged sword, which is the word of God, many may be cut down to repentance.

The way many are leaving the church that Christ purchased with His precious blood, to go into institutions not built by Christ, is alarming and should be considered. Many of them

may not know it, but when they became Christians they also became citizens of God's kingdom, and some will be gathered out of His kingdom when the angels come to separate the good from the bad.

There is nothing for a Christian to gain by turning his back on Jesus and His doctrine. When I hear of them doing so I think of the words of Peter when he said, "Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life." (John 6:68.) "And this life is in his Son." (1 John 5:11.)

The Bible teaches us how to get into Christ. We are by faith baptized into Christ. (Rom. 6:4; Gal. 3:26, 27.) All spiritual blessings are in Christ. (Eph. 1:3.) Salvation is in Christ. (Col. 2:10.) We are complete in Him, we are not complete in the world. John says, "Love not the world." (1 John 2:15.) "The friendship of the world is enmity with God. Whosoever therefore would be a friend of the world maketh himself an enemy of God." (Jas. 4:4.) Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world." (John 18:36.) If we love God we should show it by a godly life, "for this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments." (1 John 5:3.) "Whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected; hereby know we that we are in him." (1 John 2:5.)

When one reads of the great sacrifice our Lord went through, I cannot see how he can turn his back on His church. (Acts 20:28.) He purchased His church with His blood. When one turns from Christ and His church there is no other way left for him. Jesus is the way. (John 14:6.) He fills every need and good vocation in life. To the thirsty He is the fountain of living water. To the hungry He is the bread that cometh from heaven. To them that are in darkness He is the light of the world. To the builder He is the sure foundation. To the student and teacher He is the great teacher. To the sin sick and doctor He is the great physician. To the farmer He is the Lord of the harvest. To the judge He is the great and righteous judge. To the jeweler He is the pearl of great price. To the sculptor He is the living stone. To the florist He is the rose of Sharon and the lily of the valley. He was dead three days and rose from the grave saying that He was alive forevermore. He says to all His disciples, "Ye are my friends, if ye do the things which I command you." (John 15:14.) "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." (Rev. 2:10.)

I Was a Catholic

Some brethren have just finished conducting a meeting in Lafayette, La., which is eighty-five per cent Catholic and also my birthplace. I hope you will read this article. I was a member of the Catholic Church which uses a catechism as their guide. I would have never come to the knowledge of the truth using it. (John 8:31.) I want to tell you why I am a member of the church of Christ.

First, I took the advice of Isaiah 34:16; John 5:39 and Psalm 119:105. When I learned that the word of God is a lamp unto my feet and not a discipline, a manual or a catechism I had something to rely upon. (1 Pet. 1:24.) I was taught in the Catholic Church to confess to the priest. He posed as a mediator between me and God. (1 Tim. 2:5.) I was taught to abstain from eating meat on Friday and if I desired the priesthood I must not marry. But the Bible says, "the Spirit saith expressly, that in later times some shall fall away from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of demons, through the hypocrisy of men that speak lies, branded in their own conscience as with a hot iron; forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by them that believe and know the truth." (1 Tim. 4:1-3.) God said it is not good for man to be alone. (Gen. 2:18.) He also said for man to replenish the earth and he cannot legally or scripturally replenish the earth or multiply being single. Paul said, "because of fornications, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband." (1 Cor. 7:2.)

I was taught that the Catholic Church was the church built upon Peter and that Peter was the first pope. Popes do not have wives, but Peter had one. (Lk. 4:38.) They claim Peter was the rock on which the church was built. (Matt. 16:18.) He was not. (Isa. 22:2; 1 Cor. 10:4; 3:11.) Paul said that Jesus Christ is the foundation, not Peter.

When one visits the pope he must pay homage to him by kneeling down to him. But Peter did not accept such homage from Cornelius. (Acts 10:26.) Exodus 20:3 tells us who to worship. Paul talked about men who worshipped the creature more than the creator. (Rom. 1:25.) We cannot worship devils (Matt. 4:10), not even angels. (Rev. 19:10.) John fell down at the feet of the angel and was told to worship God. We are to worship God, not some man who is called a pope. (John 4:24.)

I was taught to kneel before statues and pray and I was just as ignorant as were the men at Athens. (Acts 17:23.) I was sprinkled when an infant. Jesus said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." (Mk. 16:15.) Without faith men cannot please God. (Heb. 11:6.) And what is not of faith is sin. (Rom. 14:23.) Baptism is a burial. "Are ye ignorant that all we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him through baptism into death." (Rom. 6:3, 4.) "Having been buried with him in baptism" is what Paul said. (Col. 2:12.) I was supposed to receive the Holy Ghost through the laying on of the bishop's hands. It is called confirmation. They claim they are successors of the apostles. The apostles had no successors and they could not continue by reason of death. Laying on of hands was "in part" and is done away. (1 Cor. 13:8.) I must confess that I indulged in all these things ignorantly with only the catechism as my guide. I look back over my life with remorse and shame, wishing that every Catholic would come out and be separated from the unclean things.

But one day I heard the truth and I remember the beautiful words of Jesus. I heard the preacher say, "search the scriptures." (John 5:39.) I was blessed when I read. (Rev. 1:3.) I started studying the Bible after discarding the old catechism, because they did not coincide. I wanted to make my calling and election sure. I first thought about mother's and father's teaching. Then I read the consoling words that came from the lips of Jesus. "He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me." I considered Romans 14:12 and understood that I would have to give account unto God myself. And Ezekiel 18:19, 20, teaches that the son shall not bear the iniquity of the father. My mind reflected upon Matthew 12:48-50, where Jesus said, "Who is my mother?" I thought about mother, as lovely as she was she had no heaven to put me in. Another thought came to my mind when I read that Jesus said that if a man give up home, house, mother and father and lands, he would receive a hundredfold and in the world to come eternal life. (Mk. 20:29.) I ask you, dear reader, what more could Brother Harris ask? I wanted to build my house upon the rock. (Matt. 7:24.)

I searched the Scriptures for the church. I considered Isaiah 2:2; Zechariah 1:16; Psalm 127:1. I knew except the Lord build the house they labor in vain that build it. That excluded John Knox, John Smyth, Roger Williams, Martin Luther. I wanted the

one mentioned in Romans 16:16. I wanted one that would stand. (Dan. 2:44.) I wanted a blood-bought church. (Acts 20:28.)

I learned there was one faith. (Eph. 4:5.) I examined myself to see if I were in the faith. (2 Cor. 13:5.) I contended for the faith. (Jude 3.) I learned that there is one body and that is the church and Christ is the head over one body. (Eph. 4:4; Col. 1:18; Eph. 1:22.) I learned how to enter the one body. (1 Cor. 12:13.) The Spirit directs us through the word of God. (John 6:63; Rom. 8:14.) By it we are directed to be baptized into the one body. I learned that we are reconciled in the one body. (Eph. 2:16.)

Getting religion, telling experiences, voting on a man before he is baptized, coming to the mourners' bench, getting saved before baptism, joining the church of my choice, nothing in a name, faith only saves, sprinkling or pouring for baptism are no part of the word of God and will not make a Christian. A man's baptism did not take effect if he was baptized after being taught these things. Two boys out swimming may baptize each other without preaching the word to each other, but they wouldn't be baptized, they would just be wet. Jesus said, every plant that God has not planted will be rooted up. (Matt. 15:13.) And when the blind lead the blind, both will fall into the ditch. Many wise men will not surrender unto the Bible teaching. Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom. No matter how wise they are, they are in the bondage of sin until they obey the truth. (John 8:32.)

Ye Are Complete in Christ

The apostle Paul in his letter to the Christians at Colosse told them that they were complete in Christ. (Col. 2:10.) He also made it clear to them that to be in Christ is to be in His body, over which Christ is head. (Col. 1:18.) The Christians at Colosse could be in no other body but the body of Christ. There is one body. (Eph. 4:4.) The one body is the church of Christ. (Eph. 1:22.) Paul declared that God "hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son." (Col. 1:13.) Here the word *kingdom* is used instead of the word *church*. But Matthew 16:18, 19, shows that the kingdom is the church. Also the word *the* before the word kingdom is a definite article. It limits the word *kingdom* to one kingdom. So the kingdom into which these Christians were translated was the church of Christ. There was only one church that

one could be a member of in those days. But since then men have become dissatisfied with the plainness and simplicity of Christ's church and have built their own churches. Their worship is governed by the creeds of men and not God's word.

Well did Jeremiah say, "It is not in man that walketh to direct his steps." (Jer. 10:23.) Many preachers today are telling the people to "see the light" as evidence of conversion, not realizing that the greatest light he will ever see is on his pulpit right under his nose, the Bible. Hear David, the sweet singer of Israel. "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." (Ps. 119:105.) Isaiah said, "If they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them." (Isa. 8:20.)

Only the saved are in Christ. All spiritual blessings are in Christ (Eph. 1:3), salvation is in Christ (2 Tim. 2:10), redemption is in Christ (Col. 1:13, 14), eternal life is in Him (1 John 5:11), forgiveness of sins is in Christ (Eph. 1:7), we are new creatures in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17), and reconciliation to God is in Christ. (Eph. 2:16.)

In order for the sinner to get into Christ where he can enjoy these blessings and become a new creature, he must follow the instructions of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit has laid down four steps he must take. First, he must believe. (Heb. 11:6.) Second, he must repent of his sins. (Lk. 13:3.) Next he must confess his faith in Christ. (Rom. 10:9, 10.) And finally, he must be baptized into Christ. (Gal. 3:26, 27.)

Jesus said the people of Nineveh repented at Jonah's preaching. So let us see what they did. "And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not." (Jonah 3:10.) They repented by turning away from their evil works. This is also what a man must do today when he repents. And until he does this he cannot be baptized into Christ.

When the "man of Ethiopia" confessed Christ (Acts 8:37) he did not say that God for Christ's sake had pardoned his sins. He said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." Now when a man hears the gospel, believes it, repents of his sins and confesses his faith in Christ, he is prepared to be *baptized into Christ*. We are not baptized *in* Christ but we are baptized *into* Christ. We walk *into* the house and then walk around *in* the house. Paul says we are baptized into Christ. (Rom. 6:1-4; Gal. 3:26, 27.) We then serve God in Christ. When a sinner refuses

to be baptized into Christ he refuses salvation. For he is baptized into Christ and salvation is in Christ. (2 Tim. 2:10.)

A Glorious Church

Men have always noticed outstanding events such as the sinking of the Titanic, the attack on Pearl Harbor, the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the freeing of the slaves, and the assassination of President Lincoln. But a greater event than all these took place on the day of Pentecost when the church was established and the gospel of Christ was first preached. The church of Christ is the most glorious institution in the world. Paul said, "Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end." (Eph. 3:21.) He also said, "Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, that he might present it to himself a glorious church." (Eph. 5:25-27.)

It is a glorious church because Christ built it. Jesus said, "Upon this rock I will build my church." (Matt. 16:18.) Any church not built by the Lord cannot be a glorious church. "Except Jehovah build the house, they labor in vain that build it." (Ps. 127:1.) And Jesus said, "Every plant which my heavenly Father planted not, shall be rooted up." (Matt. 15:13.)

It is a glorious church because Christ is the head. Paul said, "And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, which is his body." (Eph. 1:22, 23.) "And he is the head of the body, the church." (Col. 1:18.) This suggests that Christ exercised all authority in the church. Paul said, "Whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus." (Col. 3:17.) This simply means we are to do everything in the church by the authority of the Lord Jesus. The pope in Rome is not the head of the Lord's church, neither is any other man. But Christ is the only head of the church both in heaven and on earth. It is therefore a glorious church with a glorious head.

It is a glorious church in that it is one body. Paul said, "He is the head of the body, the church." (Col. 1:18.) And again he said, "There is one body." (Eph. 4:4.) Furthermore there is "but one body." (1 Cor. 12:20.) Therefore there is but one church. All the saved of the earth constitute this one body. Christ did not build one church for the Jews and another for the Gentiles, but He "made both one, and brake down the

middle wall of partition, having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; that he might create in himself of the two [Jews and Gentiles] one new man [the church], so making peace." (Eph. 2:14-17.) Jesus said, "Other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and they shall become one flock, one shepherd." (John 10:16.) Here Jesus was saying His one flock, the church, over which He would be the shepherd, would contain both Jews and Gentiles. The church is therefore the glorious body of Christ, into which all the saved have been called.

It is a glorious church because it has been purchased by the blood of Christ. In his address to the elders of Ephesus, Paul said that Christ had purchased the church with His own blood. He called it "the church of the Lord which he purchased with his own blood." (Acts 20:28.) The Authorized Version reads, "the church of God." The Lord Jesus purchased the church with His blood. Some contend that this was God, but Jesus said, "God is a Spirit" (John 4:24), and "a spirit hath not flesh and bones." (Lk. 24:39.) But Jesus did have a body, and He shed His blood on the cross, by which He redeemed the church. No church can be a glorious church that has not been redeemed by the blood of Christ.

Sometimes people ask if it is necessary to be baptized to be saved and if baptism saves. The Bible says we are baptized into the church (1 Cor. 12:12); baptized into Christ (Gal. 3:26, 27); baptized unto remission of sins. (Acts 2:38.) Salvation is in Christ. (Col. 1:14.) There is no salvation outside of Christ. But we are baptized into the body of Christ, which is the church. Baptism is not our saviour, but Christ is the Saviour of the church. Christ adds all the saved to the church. (Acts 2:47.) Men should believe on the Lord, repent of their sins, confess the Lord, and obey His command to be baptized if they want to be saved from their sins, and the Lord will add them to His glorious church.

Preaching that Pleases God

In Galatians 1:10 the apostle Paul had this to say: "For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ."

Friends, a preacher's duty, first, last and always, is to preach to please God. His sermons should be designed to cause men

to want to worship God and have a deeper respect for His word.

When a preacher preaches that God created the heavens and the earth, he is preaching the kind of preaching that pleases God. God is not pleased when men teach or preach evolution. When a preacher points out from God's Word that God created man out of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and man became a living soul, he pleases God. Not only is God pleased, but He is well pleased.

Oh, how the blessings of God rest upon the preacher who preaches Jesus Christ as God's Son. In John 3:16 we read, "God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

I would to God that preachers would stop making their sermons displeasing in the sight of God by preaching that there is nothing in a name. For example, there is something in Christ's name, because Peter said in Acts 4:12, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

The kind of preaching that pleases God is the kind of preaching that will cause a man to realize how valuable is his soul. In Mark 8:36 Jesus said, "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" Just suppose a man would gain the whole world, can he take it with him when he dies? Why, certainly not. For in 1 Timothy 6:7 Paul said, "We brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out."

God is pleased when preachers preach that all spiritual blessings are in Christ, and if all are in Christ, there is none to be found out of Christ.

The kind of preaching that pleases God is when a preacher exalts God's church above all man-made churches. In the long ago the prophet declared in Psalm 127:1, "Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it." In Matthew 16:18, "Upon this rock I will build my church." In Zechariah 6:12, "Behold, the man whose name is the Branch; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the Lord." In Jeremiah 23:5, "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a king shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth."

Then in Revelation 22:16 we find these matchless words, "I am the root and the offspring of David, the bright and morning star." Solomon talked about Him in Song of Solomon 2:1, "I am the rose of Sharon and the lily of the valleys."

One cannot exalt the church without exalting Christ because He is the head of it. (Col. 1:18.) He is the life of it, and will return to take it to glory after a while. (Eph. 5:23.)

False Teachers

In 2 Peter 2:1 we read: "But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction."

Our subject concerns false teachers and what they teach. Every man who is concerned about the salvation of his soul ought to be concerned about what he is being taught by religious teachers. He had better make sure that it is the engrafted word which is able to save his soul. (Jas. 1:21.) Likewise the teacher must take heed unto himself and unto his teaching, for in doing so he will save himself and them that hear him. (1 Tim. 4:16.)

We identify a false teacher by what he teaches. Jesus said the tree is known by the fruit it bears.

A false teacher teaches men to get religion, but James, the inspired teacher of the oracles of God, taught that religion was something for Christ to do. (Jas. 1:27.)

False teachers teach that preachers should be honored by being called "Reverend." But the apostles and evangelists were not called "Reverend." David said holy and reverend is God's name. (Ps. 111:9.)

The false teachers turn right around and say that there is nothing in a name. But the apostle Peter taught that salvation is in the name of Christ. (Acts 4:12.) The apostle Paul taught that God had highly exalted Christ and given Him a name above every name. (Phil. 2:9.) In Exodus 20:24 we read: "In all places where I [God] record my name I will come unto thee, and I will bless thee." Jesus taught that there was something in a name. In John 14:14 He said, "If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it."

False teachers teach sinners to pray through at the mourners' bench, but God's Word does not "teach this."

False teachers teach monthly and quarterly communion, but Paul said the disciples came together upon the first day of the week to break bread (Acts 20:7.)

False teachers offer men salvation by faith only, but James 2:24 said it is not by faith only. Men are taught to pray for faith, but Paul taught that faith comes by hearing God's word. (Rom. 10:17.)

False teachers have gone so far in their blindness to teach that men must see God as an evidence of pardon, but in 1 John 4:12 we read: "No man hath seen God at any time."

Colston-Johnson Debate

There appeared a man in Memphis, Tenn., in May, 1954, by the name of S. C. Johnson, who claimed to be a bishop in "The Church of the Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith, Inc." This man purchased a building on Corns Street in Memphis and began to preach the false doctrine of one person in the Godhead. He also bought time on the radio and night after night he preached that every preacher that baptized a man in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, baptized men wrong and by doing so were sinning and causing the person baptized to remain in his sins. Johnson boldly challenged any preacher in Memphis to point out the fallacy of his doctrine.

This challenge was accepted by A. J. Colston, minister of the Vance Avenue Church of Christ in Memphis. He and some of the brethren went to the building where Johnson was preaching to accept the challenge. But Johnson would not sign a proposition to conduct a discussion according to proper rules for debate. He even ordered Brother Colston out of the building. But there were some white friends who were interested in hearing Brother Colston uphold the truth on this subject. Therefore they made arrangements for him to follow Johnson on the radio to expose his false doctrine that the people might know the truth. Brother Colston's program was called "Searchlight of Truth," and he certainly did turn on the light of truth and expose the erroneous doctrine that Johnson was preaching. Following are some of the arguments made by Johnson and the answer given by Brother Colston.

Bishop Johnson claimed that there is only one person in the Godhead. He relied on Ecclesiastes 4:8, which says, "There is one alone, and there is not a second." Johnson said that this Scripture teaches that there is only one person in the Godhead.

But Brother Colston showed that Solomon was not talking about God, but about a man that had no children or brothers and was alone as to relatives, yet this man worked and his eyes were never satisfied with riches and never asked the question, "For whom do I labor, and bereave my soul of labor?" Solomon was showing that all this was vanity.

Johnson also quoted Isaiah 44:6: "I am the first, and I am the last; and besides me there is no God." Brother Colston showed by the ninth verse that God was simply drawing a contrast between Himself and the idols of the people. That God is the only God, and that their idols were no gods. Johnson also used Isaiah 44:24: "I am the Lord that maketh all things; that stretcheth forth the heavens alone; that spreadeth abroad the earth by myself." Brother Colston replied by showing that both Christ and the Holy Spirit were with the Father in the creation. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." (John 1:1.) Then in Revelation 19:13: "And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God." Paul said, "Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: for by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth." (Col. 1:15, 16.) It is also evident that the Holy Spirit was with God in the creation. In Genesis 1:2 we read, "And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters."

Johnson quoted Isaiah 44:22: "For I am God, and there is none else." Brother Colston's reply is going to make Johnson leave the book of Isaiah. He enlightened Johnson about the word translated God. The Hebrew word *Elohim* is the plural form, which includes God the Father, God the Son of God, and God the Holy Spirit. One Godhead, three persons. For other examples of how the word *Elohim* was used, Brother Colston quoted, "And God said, Let us make man in our own image, after our likeness" (Gen. 1:25), "And the Lord God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil" (Gen. 3:22), "Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" (Isa. 6:8.)

Bishop Johnson used John 14:8: "Philip saith unto him, Lord, show us the Father, and it sufficeth us. . . . Jesus said unto him, . . . he that hath seen me hath seen the Father." Brother Colston answered that the prophet had called Jesus "the everlasting Father." (Isa. 9:6.) That Jesus in His life showed us the love, mercy and goodness of God. That man did not know God

as he does now, before Jesus demonstrated His love and mercy to us in His own life.

Johnson used 1 John 5:7: "For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one." Brother Colston showed the people that Johnson had a habit of seeing only what he wanted to see. That he could see the word "one" in that Scripture, but he could not see the word "three." He showed that God, Christ the Word and the Holy Spirit are one, but not one person. A man and his wife are one, but not one person.

The Place Where It Is Written

In the fourth chapter of Luke the writer tells how Jesus came to Nazareth where He had been brought up and went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day and stood up to read, in the book of the prophet Esaias. In Luke 4:17 we are informed how Jesus opened the book and found the *place* where it was written. My subject is: "The Place Where It Is Written."

If a preacher is preaching from the Word of God he is preaching what is written and if it is written, it is in some *place* in the Bible. If it is written, men must believe it. (John 20:31.) Faith comes by hearing the word. (Rom. 10:17.)

There are many things being preached today and no man has been able to find the place where they are written. Preachers need to begin finding the *place* where it is written.

Take this business of preaching that men are saved by faith only, for example. The preacher who preaches such ought to be able to find where it is written, and if not he ought to stop preaching it. I find the place in the Bible where James wrote "not by faith only" (Jas. 2:24), but I have never found the place where men are saved *by faith only*.

Many preachers are preaching infant baptism, but so far I have never found the preacher who has been able to find the place where it was written. I have never read in the Bible where the apostles ever baptized or commanded anyone else to baptize an infant. In Acts 8:12 they were baptized both men and women. In Mark 16:16 we read, "He that believeth and is baptized." And in Acts 2:41, "They that gladly received his word were baptized."

Many preachers today are addressed as Reverend, but so far no one has been able to put his finger on the *place* in the Bible

where that title was ever used in respect to any preacher. Jesus Christ, the greatest preacher that ever lived, never used the title. The Bible says in Psalm 111:9, "Holy and reverend is his [God's] name."

Many preachers teach that God is too good to send a soul to hell, but no preacher has found the place where it is written. In my tent meetings I have offered numerous times to read it to the public if some preacher would only tell me the *place* where it is written. Friends, all I want is the *place*. I read in 2 Peter 2:4, "God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell." David said, "The wicked shall be turned into hell." (Ps. 9:17.) King Solomon said, "The wicked shall not be unpunished." (Prov. 11:21.)

Much false teaching is done on baptism, mainly that it has nothing whatsoever to do with a man's salvation. If that be true (and the main thing I have against many preachers is that they are preaching things that are not true, which was my main reason for leaving the Catholic Church), why did Peter say in 1 Peter 3:21 that "baptism doth also now save us"? Paul said in Galatians 3:27, we are "baptized into Christ" and in 2 Timothy 2:10 Paul said salvation "is in Christ." And in another place we read that all spiritual blessings are in Christ (Eph. 1:3.)

Some false teachers say that Christ is not the Son of God, but that Christ is God the Father and the Holy Spirit both, or that Christ is the only person in the Godhead. But such preachers cannot find the *place* where it is written. The Bible teaches in 1 John 5:7: "For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one." This does not say one person. What amazes me is how false teachers can see the word *one*, but cannot see *three*, and on top of that the word *three* has two more letters than the word *one*. Jesus said in John 10:36, "I am the Son of God." I do not think Jesus told a lie. If you would stick such a false teacher with a hat pin, his wife would not know about it nor would she feel it. The man who says he and his wife are one, will, at the cafe, order dinner for two. If Jesus and God are one person, then when Christ was dead in the grave God was dead also, and Peter was wrong when he said, "This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses." (Acts 2:32.) The best thing for any preacher to do when he cannot find the *place* where a doctrine is taught is to stop teaching that doctrine.

'As I Teach Everywhere in Every Church'

1 Corinthians 4:17

I teach that the Scriptures are sufficient to lead lost men to Christ. (2 Tim. 3:16.)

I teach that the Scriptures are of Divine origin. (2 Pet. 1:20, 21.)

I teach that manuals, disciplines, and the various creeds of men are in direct opposition to the Bible. (Isa. 34:16.)

I teach that a man can worship God in vain. (Matt. 15:8, 9.)

I teach that a man can have a zeal of God and not be according to knowledge. (Rom. 10:2; Prov. 14:12.)

I teach that there are only two ways before a man. One is the way of life and the other is the way of death. (Rom. 6:23.)

I teach that men must be taught before they are baptized. (Matt. 28:19.)

I teach that all that will not obey the Gospel are lost. (2 Thess. 1:8, 9.)

I teach that baptism is for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38.)

I teach that everyone that says, Lord, Lord, to Jesus in the last day will not be saved. (Matt. 7:21; Lk. 6:46.)

I teach that man must be a doer of God's word and not a hearer only. (Jas. 1:23.)

I teach that Christ prayed for and desires unity. (John 17:21.)

I teach that denominationalism is an abomination in the sight of God. (1 Cor. 1:10; Ps. 133:1.)

I teach that there is no Biblical reason to sprinkle for baptism. It cannot be found in God's Word.

I teach that infants are not born in sin, hence they need not be baptized. (Ps. 127:3; Matt. 18:3.)

I teach that church members should be called Christians. (1 Pet. 4:16.)

I teach that Christ built one church. (Matt. 16:18.) Christ is head over one church. (Col. 1:18.) Christ's body is the church. (Col. 1:24.)

I teach one must be in Christ's church to be saved because the church is what He will return to receive. (Eph. 5:23, 25.)

I teach that Christ's church began on Pentecost. (Acts 2:47.)

I teach that Christ's church is a Bible church. (Rom. 16:16.)

I teach one cannot find salvation save in the name of Christ. (Acts 4:12; 2 Tim. 2:10.)

I teach that Christ was the only man eligible to build a church. (Ps. 127:1.)

I teach that just being a member of the church of Christ will not save; one must keep the commandments of Christ. (Rev. 22:14.)

I teach that baptism puts one into Christ. (Gal. 3:27; Rom. 6:4.)

I teach that without faith it is impossible to please God. (Heb. 11:6.)

I teach that the New Testament nowhere teaches one to use instrumental music in church services.

I teach that the New Testament commands vocal music in church services. (1 Cor. 14:15; Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16.)

I teach that minister and members likewise must live clean lives. (Rom. 12:1; 1 Tim. 5:22.)

I teach our ministers to prove what they teach by the Bible. (1 Thess. 5:21.)

I teach our ministers to be ready to give every man a reason of the hope that is within him. (1 Pet. 3:15.)

I teach our ministers to contend for the faith. (Jude 3.)

I teach that men must receive the Lord's Supper each Lord's Day. (Acts 20:7.)

I teach that God does not hear sinners. (John 9:31.)

I teach that religion is not a thing to get, but something to be done. (Jas. 1:27.)

I teach that men are not saved until after baptism. (Mk. 16:15, 16.)

I teach that the Bible nowhere speaks of a mourners' bench.

I teach that the Bible nowhere states that one should tell an experience of grace as an evidence of pardon.

I teach that the Bible nowhere states that any candidate for baptism ever said God for Christ's sake forgave him of his sins before baptism.

I teach that the Bible nowhere teaches one to open the doors of the church. (John 10:9; Rev. 3:8.)

I teach that the Bible nowhere teaches to vote on a candidate before baptism.

I teach there is one mediator between God and man. (1 Tim. 2:5.)

For This Is Right

In the sixth chapter of the book of Ephesians, verses one, two, and three, we find these words: "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth." The apostle Paul states that children are to obey their parents in the Lord; then he tells why it should be done: "*for this is right*"; and why is it right? because God's word commands it. Therefore, anything God commands is *right*, for David said in Psalm 119:172, "All thy commandments are righteousness." In Psalm 33:4 he said: "For the word of the Lord is right." Therefore, I repeat, anything that the Lord says in His word is *right*. God is right about everything He says. "Let God be true and every man a liar." (Rom. 3:4.)

Friends, we want to be careful that we do what is right in God's sight, and that which we can read about in His word. We want to preach only that which we can put our finger on in His blessed book, the Bible.

For instance, it is right to preach repentance and remission of sins in Christ's name because Christ said it, and it is right. (Lk. 24:35.) The apostles preached it on Pentecost; therefore, they did what was right. Friends, any preacher or group of preachers who preaches what is clearly revealed in the Scriptures is right in his preaching.

Ministers of the church of Christ preach salvation in Christ, for it is right. (2 Tim. 2:10.) They preach that by works a man is justified and not by faith only. Why do they preach such? I will tell you why: because it is right; it is the word of inspiration. (Jas. 2:24.) They preach that Christ was born of a virgin, for this is right. (Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:18-21.) They preach that Christ's blood cleanses from sins, for this is right. (1 John 1:7; Heb. 9:22; Matt. 26:28; 1 John 2:2.) They preach that there are three persons in the Godhead, for this is right (1 John 1:7, 8.) In John 14:1 Jesus said, "... ye believe in God, believe *also* in me." Therefore to believe in Christ is one thing, and to believe in God is another thing.

To preach that faith comes by prayer is to preach that which is not right. In Romans 10:17, Paul said that faith comes by hearing God's word; therefore any preacher who preaches what Paul preached is preaching that which is right.

To preach that the name, "reverend," should apply to God, and God only, is right because Psalm 111:9 says, "Holy and reverend is his name."

To preach that Christ built only one church is to preach that which is right, for the Bible says, "I will build my church" (Matt. 16:18), and Ephesians 4:5 says, "one body," and Colossians 1:18 calls it "the church."

My advice to every preacher is to preach what is right; preach what's in the Bible, ever keeping in mind the fact that every one of us shall give account unto God for himself. (Rom. 14:12.)

Always keep in mind the fact that the preacher is dealing with the precious souls of men. (Mk. 8:36.) Preacher, you may preach what is not right and gain the praises of men, but to get the praises of God you must *preach what is right*. My motto is: "I would rather be *right* than President."

There Is No Other

There are many things in the physical world from which man can make a choice. If he wants to make a trip to New York he can go either by plane or train. If he wants to sleep he can do so either in the day time or at night. If he wants to relate a message he can write it or wire it. But in the religious world there is no choice. If a man wants to go to the Father he must come by Christ, Who is the way. "I am the way." (John 14:6.) Not *ways*, but *way*.

There is no other gospel sufficient to save the souls of men but the gospel of Christ. (Gal. 1:6, 7; Rom. 1:16; 2 Thess. 1:7; 2 Cor. 4:3.)

There is no other inspired book but the Bible. (2 Tim. 3:16.)

There is no other law that can convert, but the law of the Lord. (Ps. 19:7.)

There is no other blood that can wash your sins away but the blood of Christ. (1 John 1:7.) We often sing the song, "What can wash away my sins? Nothing but the blood of Jesus."

There is no other truth that can free a man from his sins, but divine truths. (John 8:32; 17:17.)

There are no spiritual blessings out of Christ. (Eph. 1:3; 2 Tim. 2:10.)

There is no other Jesus Who can save people from their sins but Jesus the Christ. (Matt. 1:21; Lk. 19:10.)

There are no prayers acceptable to God but the prayers of the righteous. (1 Pet. 3:12.)

There is no other person who receives the Holy Spirit, but the obedient person. (Acts 5:32; Gal. 4:6.)

There is no other day upon which to eat the Lord's Supper but the first day of the week. (Acts 20:7.)

There is no other plan of salvation but hearing, believing, repenting, confessing, and being baptized into the only church in which a man can be saved. Friends, there is no other. May God bless that one and no other. Amen.

The Engrafted Word Which Is Able

In James 1:21 we find these words: "Receive with meekness the engrafted word which is able to save your souls." Friends, James says unmistakably that the engrafted word can save. He did not say it was able to save your home, car, television, property, or save a man's child from polio, but it is able to save your soul. Yes, the soul that outvalues everything in the universe. (Mk. 8:36.)

The word has to be received with meekness. Well did Jesus say in Matthew 5:5, "Blessed are the meek. . . ." There is within man a spirit that cannot be satisfied with material things; there is something in him that hungers and thirsts after something, and the spirit isn't satisfied until it receives that something, and that something is stated by Jesus in Matthew 5:6: "Blessed are they that do hunger and thirst after," (here it comes) after righteousness." What is righteousness? David answers in Psalm 119:172, "All thy commandments are righteousness." It was Job who said in Job 23:12, "Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food." No wonder Jesus said in Matthew 4:4, "Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." Hear David, the sweet singer of Israel, in Psalm 119:103, "How sweet are thy words unto my taste: yea sweeter than honey to my mouth." Hear what he says again in Psalm 90:10, "Sweeter also than Honey and the Honeycomb." Notice what Jeremiah says in Jeremiah 15:16: "Thy words were found, and I did eat them."

Friends, the Word of God is inspired. (2 Tim. 3:16.) All Scripture is inspired of God. Listen to what Peter says about it in 2 Peter 1:21: "Holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." Notice again, if you please, Romans 15:4, "Whatsoever was written aforetime was written for our learning." In Acts 1:16: "This scripture . . . which was spoken by

the mouth of David." I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write." (Rev. 14:13.) The Word of God needs no addition or subtraction. (Rev. 22:18.) "Add thou not unto his words lest . . . thou be found a liar." (Prov. 30:6.) "All liars will have their part in the lake." (Rev. 21:8.)

The Word of God was written for a purpose. "But these are written that ye might believe. (John 20:31.) "Without faith it is impossible to please God." (Heb. 11:6.) "Faith cometh by hearing." (Rom. 10:17.) "They are written for our admonition." (1 Cor. 10:11.) "These things have I written . . . that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God." (1 John 5:13.)

The word of God is true. "Thy word is truth." (John 17:17.) The world needs it. "The truth shall make you free." (John 8:32.) The question, free from what? Free from sin. (Rom. 6:17.) The word of God is right. "I declare things that are right." (Isa. 45:19.) Then in Psalm 19:8, "The statutes of the Lord are right." A thing is either wrong or it is right—it can't be both.

The word can purify your life. "Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word." (Psalm 119:9.) Peter said, "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth." (1 Pet. 1:22.) "Sanctify them through" (Rolling on the floor? No.) "thy truth." "Sanctify and cleanse it . . . by the word." (Eph. 5:26.)

God wants man to study His word. "Study to show thyself approved unto God" (2 Tim. 2:15.) "Search the scriptures." (John 5:39.) "Searched the scriptures daily." (Acts 17:11.) "Seek ye out of the book of the Lord and read." (Isa. 34:16.) "Blessed is he that reads." (Rev. 1:3.) "Until I come give attention to reading." (1 Tim. 4:13.) Even Jesus read Scripture. "Went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up to read." (Lk. 4:16.)

The word of God is eternal. "Forever O Lord thy word is settled in heaven." (Ps. 119:89.) "It will outlast heaven and earth." (Mk. 13:31.) "The word of our God shall stand forever." (Isa. 40:8.) "The word of the Lord endureth for ever." (1 Pet. 1:25.) Why not obey it, friends? (Jas. 1:22.)

The Bible Does Not Say It

One day I called Lindsay Allen on the phone, and asked him if Diotrephes (3 John 9) was an elder in the church. Bro. Allen

gave me one of the clearest answers I have ever received in my life. He said, "Bro. Harris, the Bible does not say he was."

Friend, I want to use that as a subject for this sermon, "The Bible Does Not Say It."

You have heard men preach, "Get religion." Well if you are ever asked does the Bible teach, "Get Religion," just answer that "The Bible does not say it."

Some preachers say that God hears sinners but the Bible doesn't say it. (Prov. 28:9; John 9:31; 1 Pet. 3:12.) Some preachers say it is right for them to be called "Reverend" but the Bible doesn't say it. "Reverend is his [God's] name." (Ps. 111:9.)

Some preachers say that the Bible says sprinkling is baptism. But the Bible does not say it. "Buried with him in baptism." (Rom. 6:4.)

Some preachers think that the Scriptures teach infant baptism, but the Bible doesn't say it. In Acts 8:12, "They were baptized both men and women."

Some preachers say there is nothing in a name. But the Bible doesn't say it. In Acts 4:12, we read, "Salvation is in Christ's name." "Name . . . above every name." (Phil. 2:9.)

Some preachers say babies are born in sin. They say even David himself said that he was born in sin. But the Bible doesn't say David said it. Hear him in Psalm 51:5: "I was shapen in iniquity, in sin did my mother conceive me." John says, "Sin is the transgression of the law." (1 John 3:4.) What law did David transgress when he was born?

Some preachers say there are many faiths. But the Bible doesn't say it. Hear Paul, "One faith." (Eph. 4:5.) What did you say, Paul? "One faith." Talk a little louder, Paul, so all the preachers in America can hear you. Listen to what he says, preachers, "One faith." And 256 faiths cannot be one faith. Of course, 256 dollars doesn't mean one dollar. If so, I would like for every denominational preacher to send me 256 dollars for every one dollar.

Some preachers say salvation is by faith "only." But the Bible doesn't say by faith only. The word "only" is added by preachers to uphold their Discipline. Such is an addition to the Word, and Proverbs 30:6 says, "Add thou not unto his word."

Some preachers say salvation is out of Christ. In fact the whole denominational world is offering men salvation out of

Christ. But the Bible does not say it. And man had better not lie on the Bible. 2 Timothy 2:10 places salvation *in* Christ and not *out* of Christ.

Some preachers say that everybody will eventually go to heaven. But the Bible does not say it. Hear David in Psalm 9:17, "The wicked shall be turned into hell."

Some preachers say there are 256 bodies, but the Bible doesn't say it. Hear Paul if you please in Ephesians 4:4, "There is one body." What did you say, Paul? "*There is one body.*" Now you are talking. Paul. Remember Isaiah said in Isaiah 58:1, "Lift up your voice like a trumpet." Old John the Baptist was a voice crying in the wilderness, but friends, what a voice. That clarion voice broke the stillness of the wilderness of Judea and they came forward to be baptized.

The world is in dire need of men who will lift up their voices against denominationalism and false doctrines and sins in the church and out of it. My brethren, always speak up boldly and tell men when the Bible doesn't say it.

Warnings from God

In Ezekiel the 3rd chapter and the 17th verse, God addresses Ezekiel as the son of man, stating that He had made him a watchman unto the house of Israel, then in the last five words of the seventeenth verse, God said, "*Give them warning from me.*" Therefore my sermon is "Warnings from God." The preacher's job is to warn the people and the best warnings are those found in the Bible. The wicked certainly need warnings.

God sounds out a warning in Galatians 6:7: "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap." Another warning is in Psalm 7:11: "... God is angry with the wicked every day." Again in Proverbs 3:33: "The curse of the Lord is in the house of the wicked." In Psalm 9:17: "The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all nations that forget God." "The wicked shall not be unpunished." (Ps. 11:21.)

God warns the unbeliever in Hebrews 11:6: "Without faith it is impossible to please God." "He that believeth not shall be damned." (Mk. 16:16.) The sinner is warned in Romans 6:23 about the wages of sin bringing death. Jesus warns about dying in sin. (John 8:21.)

The man who doesn't believe in Christ and His word is warned in John 12:48. Also in John 8:24 and John 6:63-68.

Those who reject the word of God, the blessed Bible, are warned in James 1:21; "Receive with meekness the engrafted word," "All scripture is given by inspiration of God." (2 Tim. 3:16.) "Holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." (2 Pet. 1:21.) "God cannot lie." (Tit. 1:2.) "Thy word is true from the beginning." (Ps. 119:160.) "Thy word is true." (John 17:17.)

God warns people who won't repent. (Lk. 13:3-5; Acts 17:30; Matt. 12:41; 2 Pet. 3:9.)

The ungodly are warned in 1 Peter 4:18; Psalm 1:5 and Titus 2:11. All out of Christ are warned. (2 Tim. 2:10; Rom. 8:1; Rev. 14:13.) A great warning is issued to those who add to God's word, being found in Proverbs 30:6 and Revelation 21:8. Man can be saved without the manuals, disciplines, or the various creeds of men. The persons who haven't obeyed God's command to be baptized are warned in Acts 10:48; Ephesians 12:13, 14; Revelation 22:14; and 1 Peter 3:21.

Those who obey the doctrines of men are warned in John 4:24; Matthew 15:9; Colossians 2:21; Romans 6:17.

The man who doesn't obey the gospel had better consider the warning from God in 2 Thessalonians 1:7, 8; Romans 1:16; and 2 Corinthians 4:3.

God warns those who haven't been born again in John 3:3-5. "Ye must be born again." (John 3:7.) "Being born again not of corruptible seed but of incorruptible, by the word of God." (1 Pet. 1:23.)

The preacher who sprinkles for baptism should consider Romans 6:4; Colossians 2:12, and the example in Acts 8:38, "They both went down into the water."

The man who advocates the "church of your choice" is warned in Psalm 127:1; Matthew 16:18; and Ephesians 3:21. The fellow who says "join the church" is warned in Acts 2:47. The Lord added. In Acts 5:14, those who believed were added.

The preacher who preaches that "any way will do" is warned by God in Proverbs 14:12. He is warned by Jesus in John 14:6. He is warned by Jeremiah 6:16 and Jeremiah adds, "I will give them one heart and one way." (Jer. 32:39.) Isaiah likewise warns concerning this matter in Isaiah 35:8.

With these warnings before man, clearly stated in the Bible, if he still goes beyond what is written, God is not to blame because He has given man warning. Remember friends, God spared not the angels that sinned. (2 Pet. 2:4.)

Our Record Is True

One of the greatest things in the world is to have capable, reliable men to keep an accurate record of events and important happenings. In the New Testament we find just such men, namely the apostles of Jesus Christ. In 2 Corinthians 3:6 we are told that the apostles were "able ministers of the New Testament," therefore we can rely on what they recorded or wrote. As the apostle John said in 3 John 1:12, "our record is true," and in John 17:17 "Thy word is true." In John 17:20 Jesus tells us to believe on him through their (apostles) word.

Now let's turn to the record of the apostles, and keep in mind what John said in 3 John 1:12, "Our record is true," and in John 20:31, "These things are written that you might believe." We need to hear the apostles on these matters. Jesus said in Luke 10:16, "He that heareth you heareth me."

The apostle Matthew recorded in Matthew 7:21 the exact words of Jesus: "Not everyone that saith unto me Lord, Lord shall enter into the kingdom of heaven, but he that doeth the will of my father which is in heaven." Matthew records in Matthew 12:50, "For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven the same is my brother, and sister and mother." Jesus didn't put his mother's will ahead of his Father's will. See John 4:34; Luke 2:49.

Let's see what Peter thought about the divine sonship of Christ. "Thou art the Christ, the son of the living God." (Matthew 16:16.) In John 6:69 we find this: "We believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the son of the living God."

The apostle Paul left this record in Ephesians 4:4: "There is one body" and again in Ephesians 2:16 he said, "reconciled both unto God in one body." He accurately describes it for us in Col. 1:24, "For his body's sake, which is the church," and in Ephesians 1:22, 23 he said, "The church which is his body." In Ephesians 5:30 Paul says, "We are members of his body." The apostle James says in James 1:21 "The engrafted word which is able to save your soul. Several years before Jesus said, in Mark 8:36, "What shall it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul." The apostle Peter speaks in 1 Peter 1:9, "The salvation of your soul." Friends, your soul is important to you.

Many people wash feet in worship service as an act of worship, but when we search the scriptures carefully, we can't find where

the apostles left anything recorded of such a practice. We find in 1 Timothy 5:10 that it is scriptural for a widow to wash feet at home and according to 2 Samuel 11:8 that there is nothing wrong for you to "go down to thy house and wash thy feet."

I have preached in over one hundred cities and I find people who still believe in trying to keep the Law of Moses. But friends, when we turn to the record left us by the apostle Paul, we find in Romans 6:14 that "ye are not under the law." Again in Galatians 5:18 "ye are not under the law." According to Ephesians 2:15 the law of Moses is "abolished" just like the law of slavery is abolished, which means it is not in existence any more. How much of the law is abolished? We turn to James 2:9 and we find it is "the whole law."

Friends, to become a Christian and get in the church that Jesus was referring to in Matthew 16:18 we must do what the inspired apostles of Jesus Christ left on record. They taught men to hear the gospel, Mark 12:29, Acts 15:7, believe the gospel, repent of sins, Luke 13:5, confess Christ, Matthew 10:32, Romans 10:10, Acts 8:37, and last but not least, be baptized for the remission of sins, like the 3,000 did on Pentecost, and the Lord will add you to the same church that he added them to, according to the record left by the inspired writer of Acts 2:47.

